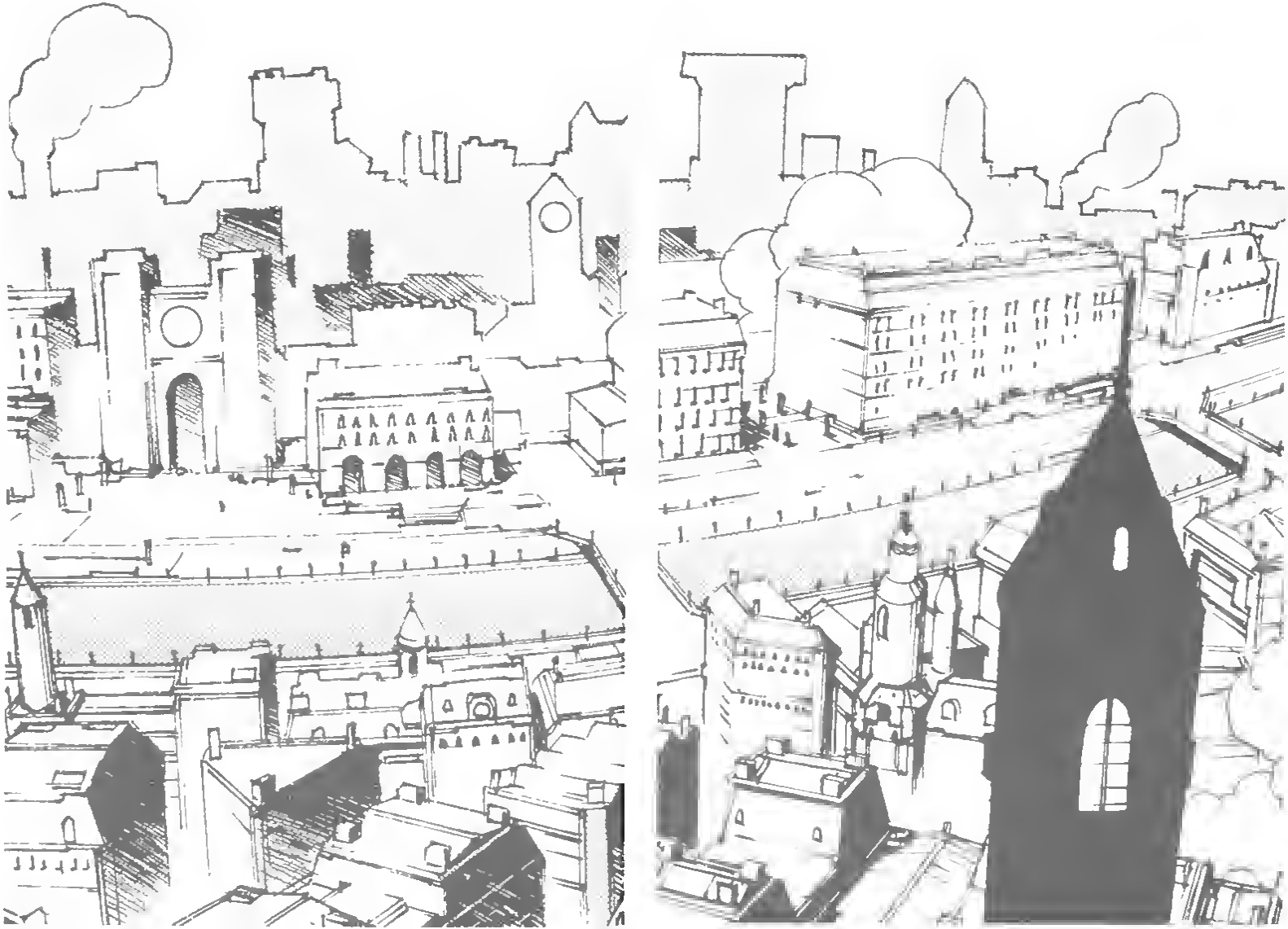
VOL. 4

STORY AND ART BY

KIA ASAMIYA



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Steam-Punk Mysteries

The place is Steam City, a mixture of London and Tokyo's Asakusa district, and boy detective Narutaki is gaining quite a reputation as he solves the myriad of mysteries that come to his door.

In his first case, the evil Phantom Knight tricks beautiful nurse Ling Ling and her *megamaton* robot Goriki into luring Narutaki into a trap. After the defeat of the Phantom Knight, Ling Ling and Goriki ask to join Narutaki and his butler Kawakubo in the Narutaki Detective Agency, and together they form the Steam Detectives.

But their work is just beginning and the agency finds itself opposed to a dizzying array of villains including not only Phantom Knight but the machine fetishist, the Machine Baron; Dr Guilty and his destructive Shadow Bolt *megamatons*; Ling Ling's evil opposite Lang Lang abetted by the boy criminal Le Bread; the fictional villain come-to-life Steam King; and the ingenious cat-burglar the Red Scorpion.

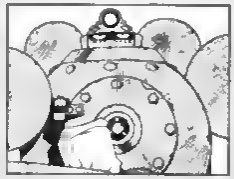
Since Narutaki and his friends solve every case with which they are presented, they have gained a good reputation throughout Steam City. But that means that defeating the boy detective leads to fame, and this lure is too much for the unhinged criminal element to resist!

Narutaki

Son of the greatest detective in the history of Steam City, his parents' murder has left him with only his butler's help in his quest to follow in his father's footsteps

Ling Ling

It is known that the beautiful nurse Ling Ling's father is the great scientist Dr Hsu, but her past is still a mystery.



Goriki

A steam-powered *megamaton* robot that is fiercely loyal to Ling Ling. Somewhere inside its body is the brain of Dr. Hsu.

Kawakubo

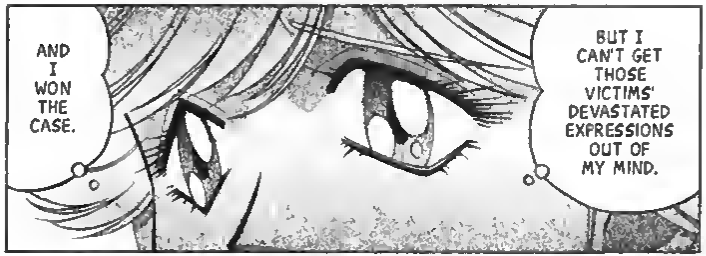
Narutaki's loyal butler and a man of many resources

CASE 11, PART 1

THE EXECUTIONER: DON DEATH

EEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEE
TO OUR VICTORY.
KLINK
CHEERS!

HA HA HA. THE VERDICT WAS A FULL ACQUITTAL, AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU!
YOU LIVED UP TO YOUR REPUTATION AS THE TOP UP-AND-COMING LAWYER, LIZA FLEISHER!
THANK YOU, SIR.
DID YOU SEE THE LOOK ON THEIR FACES WHEN THE FOREMAN READ, "NOT GUILTY?"
.....
HA HA HAA HAAA HAA
WHAT'S WRONG? DRINK UP!
SHH
HAVE ALL YOU WANT! HA HA HAA HAAA
EACH CITIZEN HAS A RIGHT TO A LAWYER.
I KNOW THAT, BUT...
KURAZO HAYASHI. THE PRESIDENT OF HAYASHI FINANCES. EVERYONE KNOWS HE'S CORRUPT!
I KNOW HE'S GUILTY, BUT WHEN HE CHOSE ME AS HIS DEFENSE LAWYER, I DEFENDED HIM TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY!

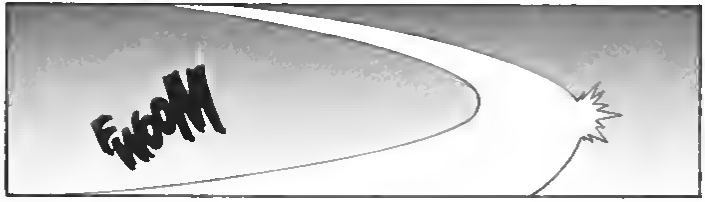

AND I WON THE CASE.
BUT I CAN'T GET THOSE VICTIMS' DEVASTATED EXPRESSIONS OUT OF MY MIND.

WHAT AM I DOING !?!

LIZA, WE'LL DRIVE YOU HOME
THANK YOU, SIR
!
HEY!
WE'LL DROP HER OFF ON THE WAY BACK HOME
YES, SIR!

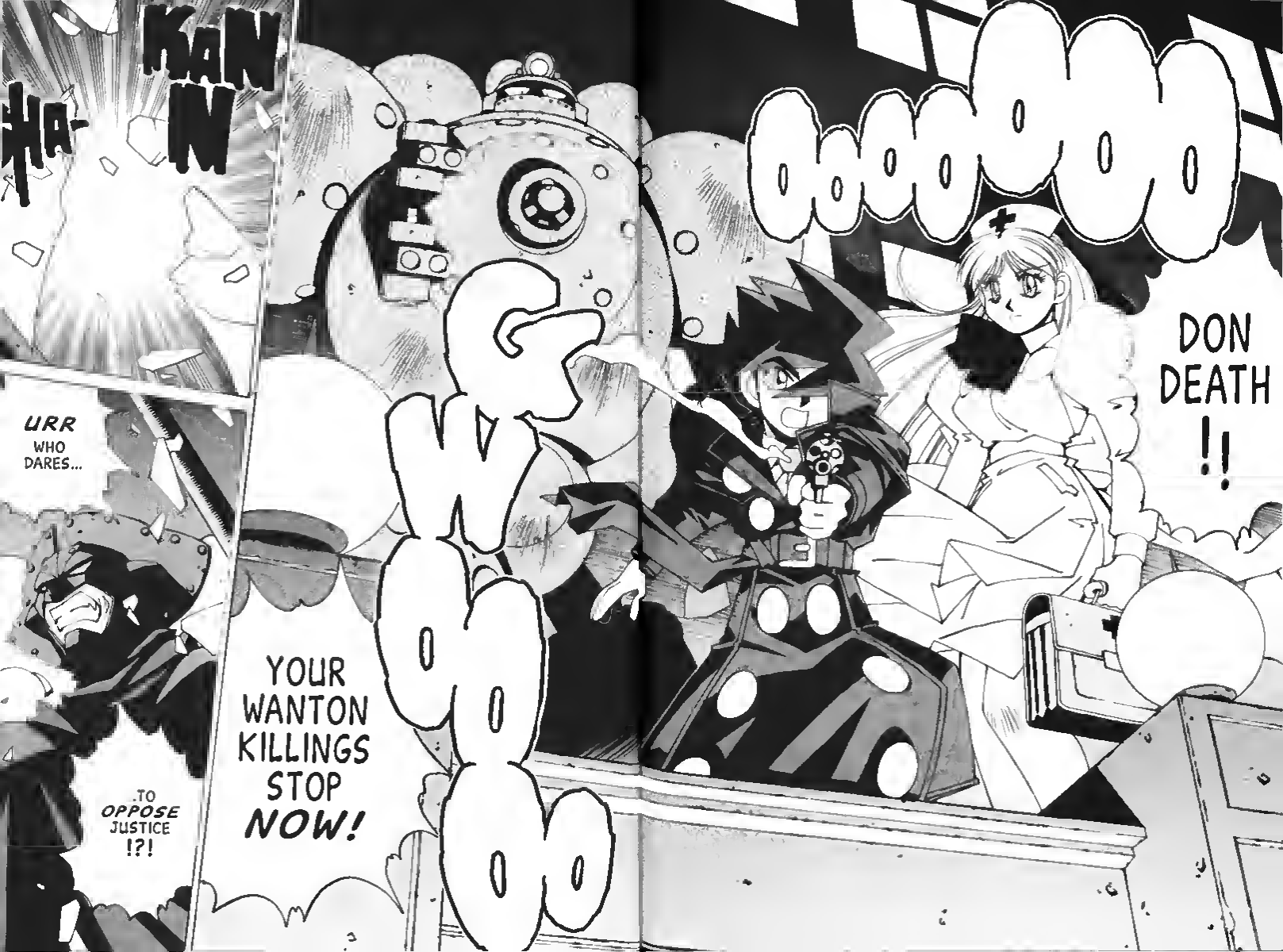
SHUUK K KK
!!
GWA AA AA
AHH-- AAHH HHH HH
!?
KUR RCH

WHAT'S GOING ON!? WHAT'S GOING ON!?
CHAK
CHAK
CALM DOWN! WE HAVE TO PROTECT MR. HAYASHI!


FWOOM

SK OR RR
URR RR-
GRH
CH
AR RG!
GAT
NO !!
CH
SHOK
UN GH!
KK
I AM THE EXECU-TIONER OF TRUE JUSTICE! I AM DON DEATH.
SHOPP
SHOPP
I AM JUSTICE! I AM THE LAW! AND MY LAW WILL BE DONE!
NO OOO OO OOO OO!!
TM
KURAZO HAYASHI. YOU HAVE BEEN CONVIC-TED!
EVEN IF THE LAW OF STEAM CITY FINDS YOU INNOCENT... MY LAW DOES NOT!

THE SEN-TENCE IS DEATH !!
VEE
EEN
FWOSH
SHOKK
KER RRSH
NOW
WHEN YOU DEFEND THE GUILTY, YOU YOURSELF ARE GUILTY!!
LIZA FLEISHER, YOU ARE GUILTY !!
THE SENTENCE IS DEATH !!
FW
OOSH

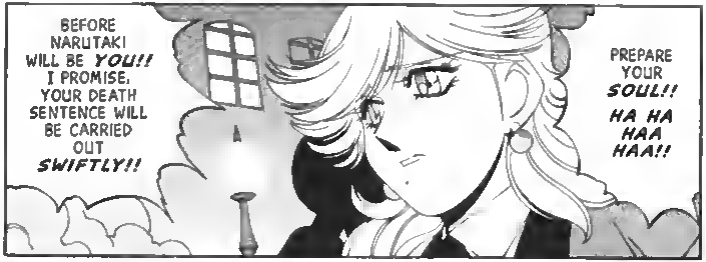

HA-
KAN
IN
URR
WHO DARES...
TO OPPOSE JUSTICE !?!
YOUR WANTON KILLINGS STOP NOW!
GWOOOO
OOOOOOO
DON DEATH !!

UR
RRR

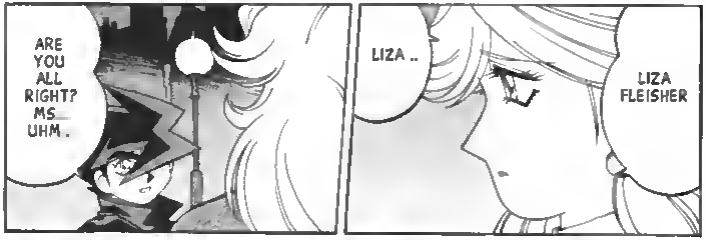
WHY, YOU'RE..
NARU-TAKI !!
LING LING !!
AND GORIKI !!
YOU ARE OBSTRUC-TING JUS-TICE!!
KRI CH
NARU-TAKI !!
TM
MURDER ISN'T JUSTICE.

SILENCE !!
WOOOSH
VVW-
TH-
RAK
TUMP
UN NG!
LING LING!! GET HER OUT OF HERE, NOW!!
OKAY!!
YOU'LL NOT GET AWAY, LIZA!!
KANCH

KRRANK
UR RG!
KRRNK
KACHIIH
MUST YOU AL-WAYS INTER-FERE !?!
VERY WELL !!
WAIT, DON DEATH !!
POO
OOOSH
FSSH
FSSH
I'LL WITH-DRAW FOR NOW. BUT NEXT TIME
NARUTAKI, ALL OF YOU SHALL DIE! THE SENTENCE IS SEVERE FOR THOSE WHO OBSTRUCT JUSTICE!!
FSSH
FSSH

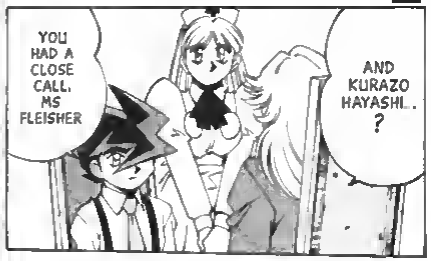

BEFORE NARUTAKI WILL BE *YOU!!* I PROMISE. YOUR DEATH SENTENCE WILL BE CARRIED OUT *SWIFTLY!!*
PREPARE YOUR *SOUL!!* *HA HA HAA HAA!!*

FSSH
FSSHHH

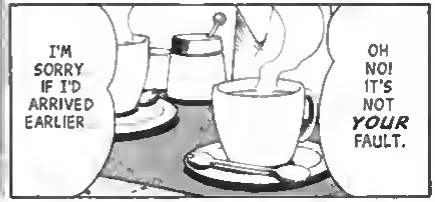

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? MS... UHM.
LIZA ..
LIZA FLEISHER

I'M A LAWYER
PWEEE PWEEEEE

DON DEATH HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR SEVERAL MURDERS RECENTLY IN STEAM CITY
NARUTAKI DETECTIVE AGENCY
WE'VE BEEN PATROLLING THE STREETS IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE POLICE


YOU HAD A CLOSE CALL, MS FLEISHER
AND KURAZO HAYASHI..?

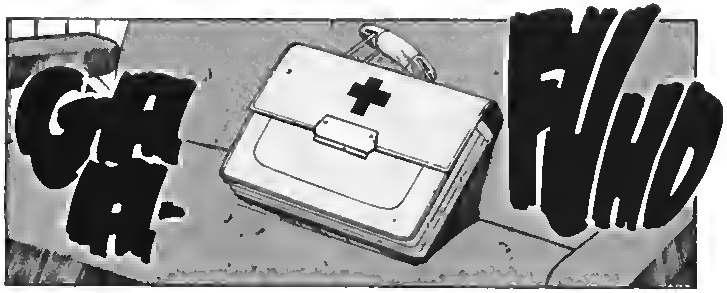
.....
I SEE.


I'M SORRY IF I'D ARRIVED EARLIER...
OH NO! IT'S NOT *YOUR* FAULT.

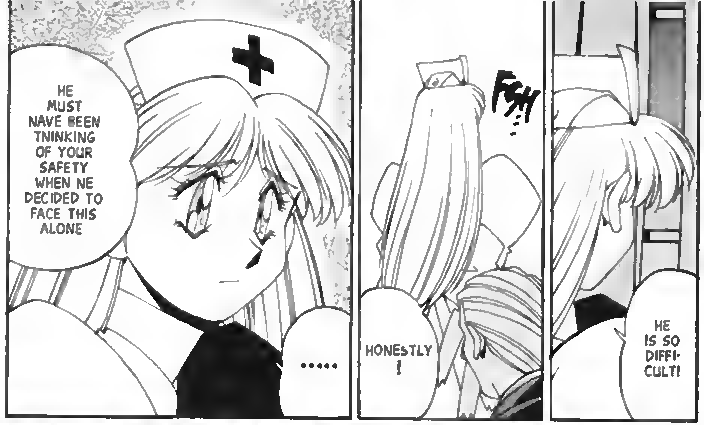
BUT WHY WERE *YOU* THERE?
I WAS HAYASHI'S ATTORNEY.
THERE WAS A TRIAL TODAY.
KLAM
KLAMM

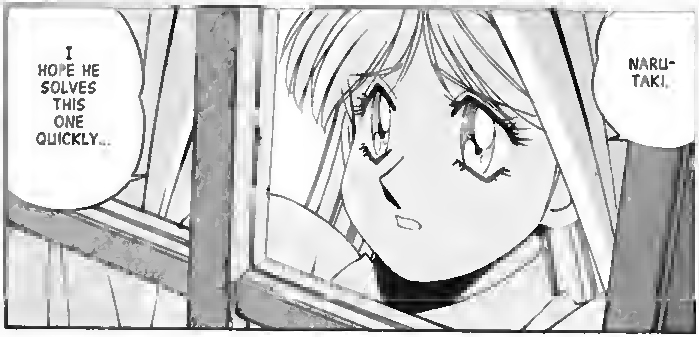
THE COURT FINDS THE DEFENDANT, KURAZO HAYASHI...
...NOT GUILTY !!
EXCEL-LENT !!
WHAT !?
YOUR HONOR, I PRO-TEST!!
YOU MUST RECON-SIDER THE EVI-DENCE!
CASE NUMBER 34321 IS NOW OFFICIALLY CLOSED!!
PLEASE CLEAR THE COURT-ROOM!
WHAT THE--
THIS IS ALL THANKS TO YOU, LIZA!
N-NOT AT ALL.

YOU'RE GUILTY, AND YOU KNOW IT, KURAZO HAYASHI!!!
YOU'LL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE, IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!!
NO MATTER WHAT!
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GRANT, HUH.
HE'S GOT QUITE A REPU-TATION AS A HARD-LINER.
HAYASHI MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR SOME CRIMINAL ACTS
BUT MY JOB IS TO DEFEND MY CLIENTS TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY, NO MATTER WHAT MY OWN OPINION MAY BE.
THAT IS HOW OUR SYSTEM OF JUSTICE WORKS


GA AA-
FUHO

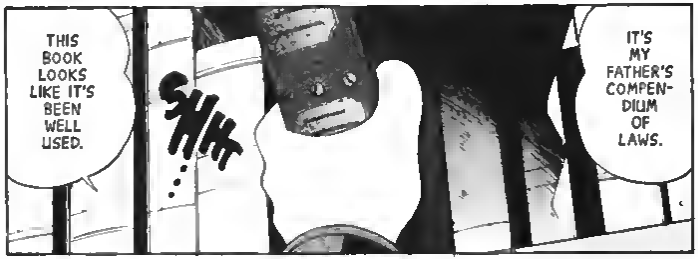
NARU-TAKI CAN BE SO EXAS-PERATING !!
HMPH
NE SAYS IT'S BECAUSE SOMEONE IS OUT TO KILL THAT WOMAN!
TNE MINUTE NE SEES A PRETTY FACE HE , AND HE'S JUST A KID!
HO HO HO HO
?
A THOUSAND PARDONS, MS LING LING YOUR TEA IS READY
K-KAWA-KUBO NOW EMBARRAS-SING
BUT MR NARUTAKI IS MUCH THE SAME WITH YOU.
I-- I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT
AND HE TOOK GORIKI ALONG
THIS TIME WE AREN'T FACING TNE USUAL THIEF, BUT A CRUEL MURDERER

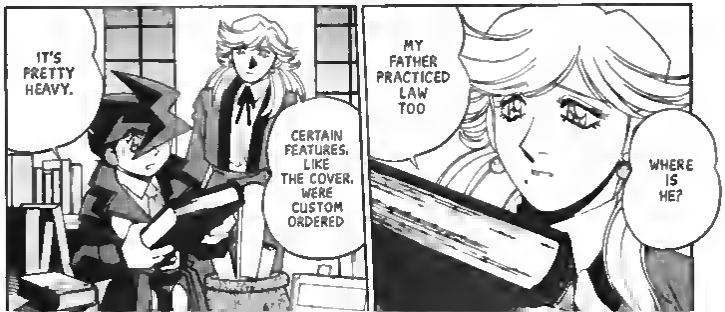

HE MUST NAVE BEEN TNINKING OF YOUR SAFETY WHEN NE DECIDED TO FACE THIS ALONE
.....
FSH
HONESTLY !
HE IS SO DIFFI-CULT!


I HOPE HE SOLVES THIS ONE QUICKLY..
NARU-TAKI.

MAKE YOUR-SELF AT NOME
TNANK YOU
WHERE'S GORIKI ?
HE WON'T FIT INSIDE
RR RR

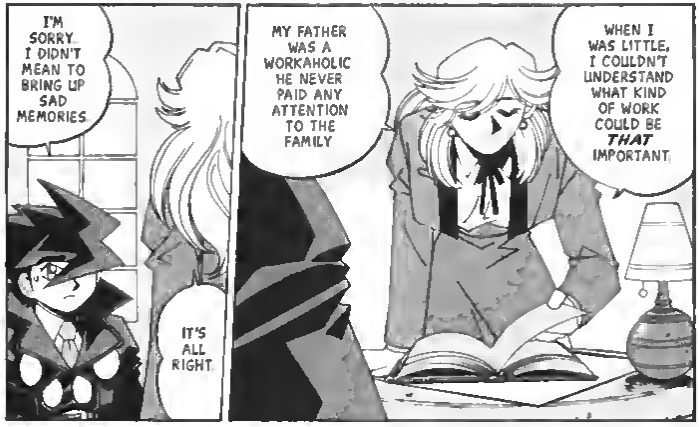
SORRY, MY ROOM'S JUST A PILE OF BOOKS.
IT'S INTERESTING. I'VE NEVER SEEN A LAWYER'S ROOM BEFORE.
YOU HAVE SO MANY BOOKS-- TWICE AS MANY AS WE HAVE AT OUR OFFICE
LAW IS HALF A JOB AND HALF A HOBBY, SO ALL THE BOOKS...
YOU'RE A SCHOLAR
HM?


THIS BOOK LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN WELL USED.
SHH...
IT'S MY FATHER'S COMPEN-DIUM OF LAWS.


IT'S PRETTY HEAVY.
CERTAIN FEATURES, LIKE THE COVER, WERE CUSTOM ORDERED
MY FATHER PRACTICED LAW TOO
WHERE IS HE?

WHEN I WAS LITTLE, MY PARENTS DIVORCED. MY MOTHER TOOK CUSTODY.
SHE WENT TO THE HOSPITAL TEN YEARS AGO, AND THERE SHE PASSED AWAY HER LAST WORDS WERE, "LIVE WITH YOUR FATHER."

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR MY FATHER EVER SINCE I THOUGHT IF I WORKED IN HIS PROFESSION...
...THAT ONE DAY I MIGHT FIND HIM.


I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO BRING UP SAD MEMORIES.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
MY FATHER WAS A WORKAHOLIC HE NEVER PAID ANY ATTENTION TO THE FAMILY
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT KIND OF WORK COULD BE THAT IMPORTANT.

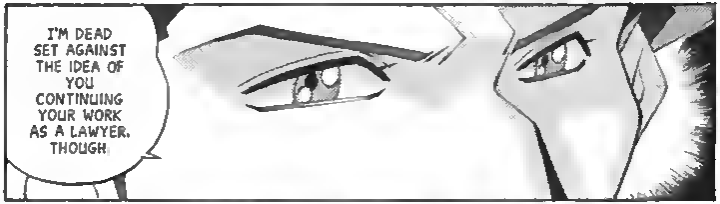
IT'S IRONIC. I'VE BECOME COMPLETELY ABSORBED IN MY WORK
MAYBE IT'S IN MY BLOOD
.....
FLIP
WHAT'S THAT? IT SMELLS NICE.
IT'S A LEAF FROM A FLOWER CALLED FAIRLADY I USE IT AS A BOOK-MARK
IT'S NOT SUCH A REMARKABLE FLOWER, BUT WHEN YOU DRY IT.
...IT GIVES OFF A PLEASANT SCENT THEY WERE IN FASHION ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO
HMM...
I KNOW THAT SMELL FROM SOMEWHERE
MMMM
I CAN'T RECALL
NARUTAKI, DO YOU THINK DON DEATH WILL TRY TO KILL ME?

IT'S POSSIBLE BUT THERE'S SOMETHING UNIQUE TO THIS CASE
MEAN-ING ??
IT'S TRUE THAT HIS VICTIMS HAVE ALL BEEN THOSE DECLARED TO BE INNOCENT IN COURT
..BUT LIKE KURAZO HAYASHI, THEY'VE ALL BEEN DIS-REPUTABLE..
. SO FOR SOME, DON DEATH IS CON-SIDERED A HERO
A VIGILANTE WHO FIGHTS TRUE EVIL
TRUE EVIL..
OH, I'M NOT SAYING THAT YOU'RE EVIL.
NO NO
BUT FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW..
BUT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE FAMILIES AND VICTIMS WHO LOST IN COURT..
I MUST SEEM EVIL

LIZA, IT'S ME
TONK TONK TONK
ARE YOU HOME ?
!
OH, HE'S ALL RIGHT. I KNOW HIM.
LIZA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I RAN OVER THE MINUTE I HEARD YOU WERE ATTACKED!
REGG...
HM?
HELLO.
SO YOU'RE NARUTAKI I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU THANKS FOR PROTECTING MY LIZA
I WAS JUST DOING MY DUTY. I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR BOYFRIEND WAS A DETECTIVE..
OH, IT'S NOT--

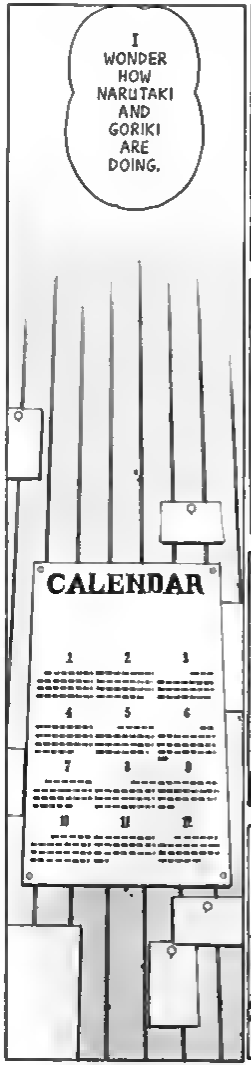
LISTEN, LIZA, I KNOW I MIGHT BE OUT OF LINE, BUT THIS INCIDENT MIGHT BE THE RIGHT OCCASION FOR YOU..
TO QUIT YOUR PROFESSION AND MARRY M--
REGG, I'M NOT GOING TO QUIT!
LIZA ..
WHAT HAPPENED TONIGHT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING!
I DON'T WANT YOU CAUGHT UP IN THIS CLIMATE.
THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IS FUELED BY HATRED AND SORROW
REGG..
IF YOU QUIT, DON DEATH PROBABLY WON'T HAVE ANY MORE REASON TO HUNT YOU!
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT !
SIRP SIRP
....
OH, REGG
OH!
I'M SORRY, MR NARUTAKI THIS IS RATHER EMBARRASSING
CHAK
DON'T MIND ME
HOWEVER, LIZA'S LIFE IS IN DANGER.
WE WILL PROTECT HER UNTIL WE UNMASK DON DEATH AND THAT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME

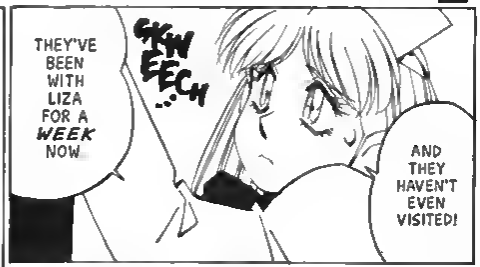
THE FAMOUS BOY DETECTIVE IS AT WORK THAT'S A COMFORT.
I'D LIKE TO BE WITH YOU 24 HOURS A DAY. BUT I HAVE ANOTHER CASE THAT'S TYING ME UP
REGG..

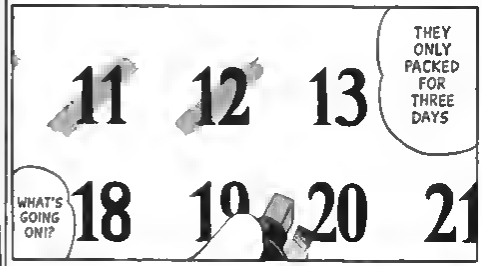

I'M DEAD SET AGAINST THE IDEA OF YOU CONTINUING YOUR WORK AS A LAWYER, THOUGH.

REGG, I CAN'T QUIT LAW.

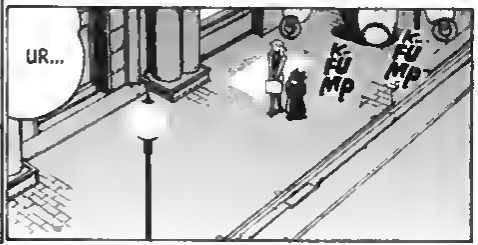
.....
FWEEEE
FWEEEE


I WONDER HOW NARUTAKI AND GORIKI ARE DOING.
CALENDAR

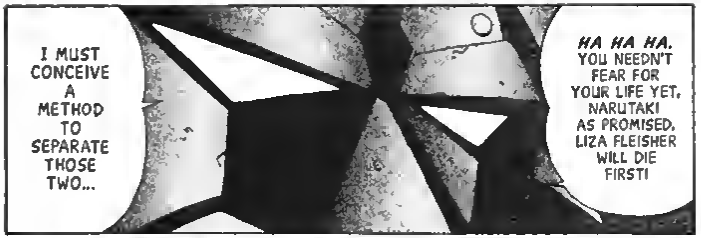

THEY'VE BEEN WITH LIZA FOR A WEEK NOW.
GKWEECH
AND THEY HAVEN'T EVEN VISITED!


11
12
13
THEY ONLY PACKED FOR THREE DAYS
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
18
19
20
21

FWEEEE
FWEEEE


UR...
KU FU MP
KU FU MP

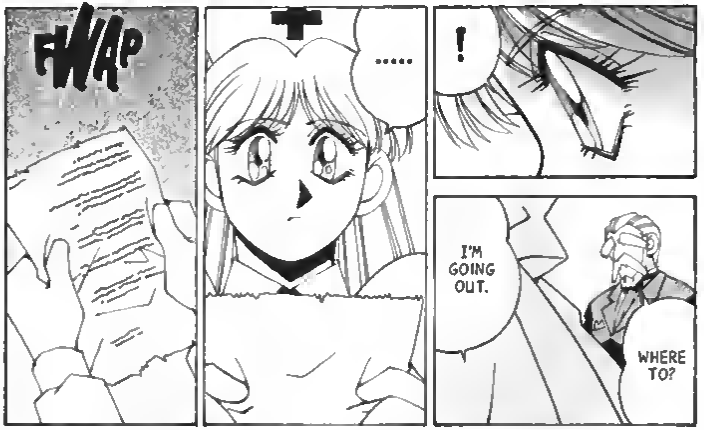
WITH NARUTAKI'S CONSTANT INTERFERENCE, I CANNOT CARRY OUT JUSTICE!
HE IS A THORN IN MY SIDE!

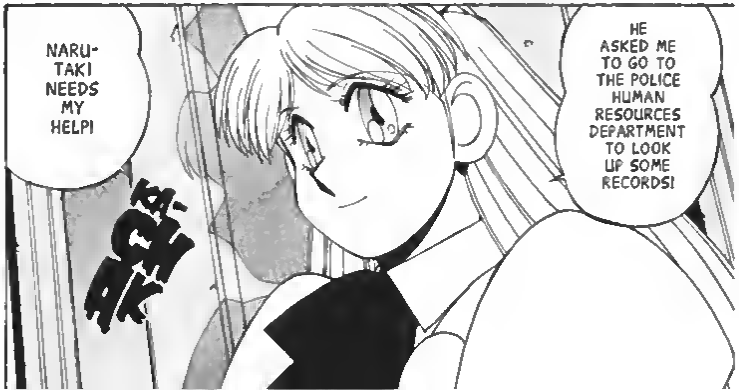

I MUST CONCEIVE A METHOD TO SEPARATE THOSE TWO...
HA HA HA. YOU NEEDN'T FEAR FOR YOUR LIFE YET, NARUTAKI AS PROMISED, LIZA FLEISHER WILL DIE FIRST!

AND I ALWAYS KEEP MY PROMISES
HA HA HAA HA

MS LING LING! MS LING LING!
WHAT IS IT, KAWAKUBO??

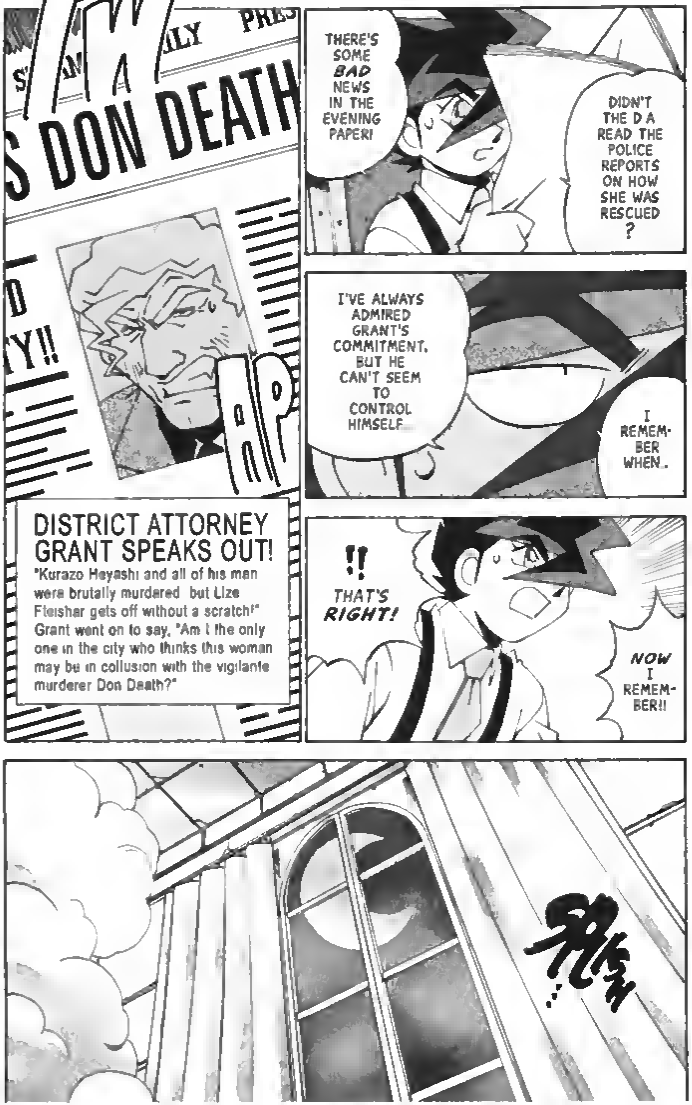
A FACSIMILE FROM MR. NARUTAKI.
FROM NARUTAKI? I WONDER WHAT IT IS...?


FWAP
.....
!
I'M GOING OUT.
WHERE TO?

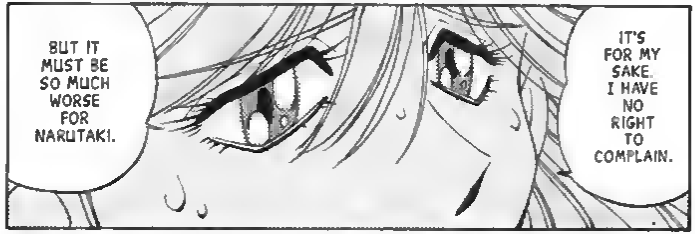

NARUTAKI NEEDS MY HELP!
KA-CHI-KK
HE ASKED ME TO GO TO THE POLICE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO LOOK UP SOME RECORDS!

SCRUBB SCRUBB
IT WAS AN OVERSIGHT TO BRING ONLY THREE DAYS' WORTH OF CLOTHES.
SCRUBB
SPLASH
SLOSH
SCRUBB
SCRUBB
SPLASH
NARUTAKI, I CAN DO THAT FOR YOU.
I'LL DO IT. JUST LET ME BORROW YOUR SINK A LITTLE LONGER
HA HA HA
YOU'RE FUNNY.
HA HA HA
TONK TONK
WHO COULD THAT BE?
I'LL ANSWER IT.

KA-CHAK
IT'S ME LING LING IS NARU-TAKI...
HI!
LING LING WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
YOU KNOW WHAT BRINGS ME! THE INFORMATION YOU REQUESTED, OF COURSE!
REALLY!? THANKS!
BUT YOU COULD HAVE CALLED OR FAXED IT IN...
WHUNK
I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO BRING...
A WEEK'S WORTH OF CLOTHES!
NG LING
BUT YOU DON'T DESERVE IT!
THOK
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!!
.....
DON'T BE THAT WAY, LING LING!
HUMPH


I'M A
S DON DEATH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GRANT SPEAKS OUT!
"Kurazo Hayashi and all of his men were brutally murdered but Liza Fleishar gets off without a scratch!" Grant went on to say, "Am I the only one in the city who thinks this woman may be in collusion with the vigilante murderer Don Death?"
THERE'S SOME BAD NEWS IN THE EVENING PAPER!
DIDN'T THE D A READ THE POLICE REPORTS ON HOW SHE WAS RESCUED ?
I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED GRANT'S COMMITMENT. BUT HE CAN'T SEEM TO CONTROL HIMSELF...
I REMEMBER WHEN..
!!
THAT'S RIGHT!
NOW I REMEMBER!!

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO KEEP LIVING LIKE THIS?
IT'S WEARING ME OUT.

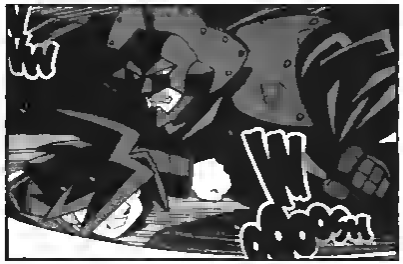

BUT IT MUST BE SO MUCH WORSE FOR NARUTAKI.
IT'S FOR MY SAKE. I HAVE NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN.

HANG IN THERE, LIZA.
SPLISH
WEEEEEEE
I'M GETTING DIZZY
TIME TO GET OUT OF--
PLISH
KA-CHUD

EE YAA AAA AH!!
FSH
SHAFSH
!?
KA CHAK

STEAM DETECTIVES PRESS

A Serial Murderer or a Steam City Hero!?



DETECTIVE NARUTAKI FACING DON DEATH

Citizens are beginning to voice support for the serial killer Don Death Supporters point out that each of his victims had underworld contacts and were wealthy enough to buy their not-guilty verdicts

Public reaction was mixed and vocal with regards to the recent murder of Kurazo Hayashi Hayashi was alleged ly linked to the Aykroyd Incident, the largest corruption scandal in Steam City a history The Steam City Special Investigations Unit was planning a thorough investigation of companies affiliated with Hayashi

If Don Death is caught by police, his resulting trial will undoubtedly result in a media frenzy Advocates for the abolishment of the 12-member jury system are gaining ground, claiming that the system is the primary factor in the "release of such obviously guilty suspects as Hayashi " We will be keeping a close watch on upcoming developments

KURAZO HAYASHI

DREAM BLOSSOMS

Flower Shop "Les Fleurs"
"Rare Flower Exhibit"

We now have the popular Fairlady * Be sure to come visit!
*When dried, the Fairlady gives off a sweet scent

We have many rare flowers--plants you'll never be able to see again such as the legendary Dream Blossoms, the Grand Dragon Orchids, and the Burst-Seed Grasses
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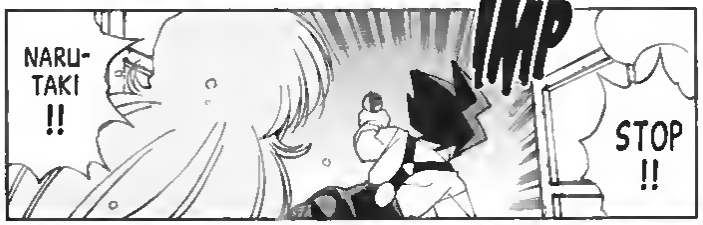
CASE 11, PART 2

A FATHER'S BONDS, A DAUGHTER'S LOVE

WHAT THE--
ARE YOU ALL...
..RIGHT ?
YEAH...
UH...
I MEAN...
...WHAT IS THAT... ?
FWUUUU
FWUU
.....
!

TH-THAT'S AN INTERESTING BIRTH-MARK...
FORGET MY BIRTH-MARK!
LOOK OVER THERE!

VAAA
DON DEATH !!


NARU-TAKI !!
TMP
STOP !!

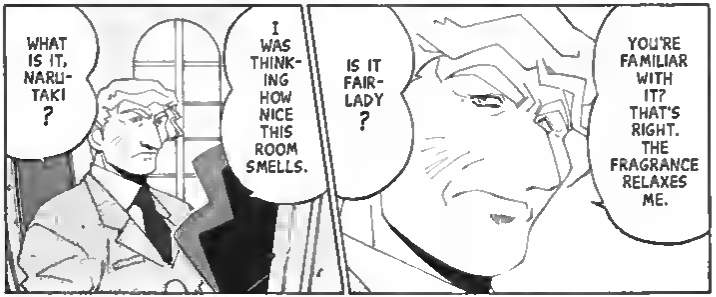
FWEE
FWEE
FWEE

HUFF
HUFF
CHK
HUFF !!
DAMN!
FWEE
EEE EE EEEE
DON DEATH IS GETTING MORE AND MORE IMPATIENT
CASE 11, PART 2 A FATHER'S BONDS, A DAUGHTER'S LOVE
WHY?
HE'S CHANGING HIS M.O THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE'S DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS PERHAPS HE CAN'T FORGIVE HIMSELF FOR FAILING IN HIS EXECUTION HE'S TOUGHER ON HIMSELF THAN I IMAGINED
THAT MEANS..

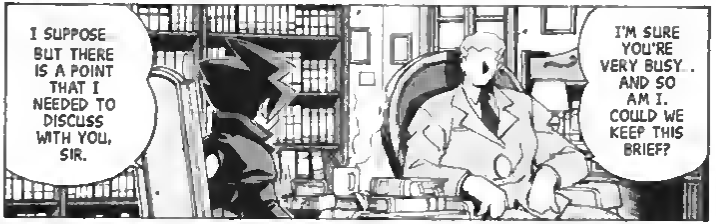
FWAPP
Attorney Lize Fleisher strongly denied District Attorney Grent s allegetrons of collusion with vigilente Don Death
She hes hired Detective Narutaki es her personal bodyguard end to investigate the murders attributed to Don Death
Fleisher recently steted.. "We have obteined vital evidence pin-pointing Don Deeth s identity."
She esserted that the boy detective Narutaki will soon capture the murderer
.....
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THIS..
PUTT PUTT

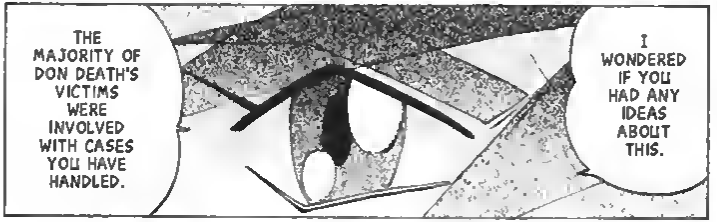
I HAVEN'T COME HERE IN A WHILE...
PUT PUT
THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY GRANT..
THE SMELL OF THIS ROOM..
...IS THE SAME SMELL AS LIZA'S FAIRLADY BOOK-MARK

I KNEW THE SCENT WAS FAMILIAR.
AND HERE IT IS IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.


WHAT IS IT, NARUTAKI ?
I WAS THINK-ING HOW NICE THIS ROOM SMELLS.
IS IT FAIR-LADY ?
YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH IT? THAT'S RIGHT. THE FRAGRANCE RELAXES ME.

JUST AS I THOUGHT
IT REALLY HAS BEEN QUITE A WHILE.
AREN'T YOU GUARDING MS. FLEISHER ?
ISN'T IT A RISK LEAVING HER ALONE?


I SUPPOSE BUT THERE IS A POINT THAT I NEEDED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU, SIR.
I'M SURE YOU'RE VERY BUSY . AND SO AM I. COULD WE KEEP THIS BRIEF?


THE MAJORITY OF DON DEATH'S VICTIMS WERE INVOLVED WITH CASES YOU HAVE HANDLED.
I WONDERED IF YOU HAD ANY IDEAS ABOUT THIS.

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO IMPLY, BOY ?
THAT I MIGHT BE IN SOME WAY CONNECTED TO DON DEATH ?

NO, I'M NOT SAYING THAT. BUT EXAMINING THE--
YOU MAY GO!
KRIK
WHA-- ??
YOU ARE IRRITATING ME LEAVE NOW!!
PLEASE, I WAS...
GET OUT!! OR I'LL HAVE YOU RE-MOVED!
OOP.
GA NK
KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
OH, I'M SO SORRY..
HEH HEH

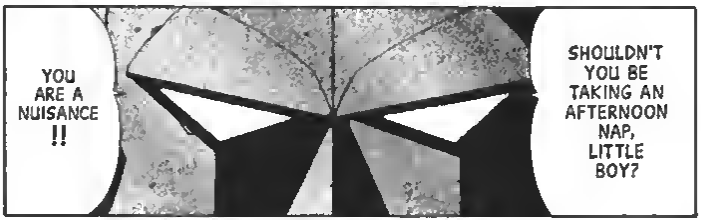
!!
THIS COMPEN-DIUM..
..IT'S THE SAME ONE AS LIZA'S?
FLIP
A FAMILY PORTRAIT? I WAS SURE GRANT WAS A BACHELOR.
WHO IS THE CHILD?
GRABB
YOU'VE ANNOYED ME ENOUGH! NOW LEAVE!
AA HH!
UH...
KA-CHAK

DON'T BOTHER ME! DO YOU UNDER-STAND!?
ACTU-ALLY, I'M AFRAID WE'LL BE--
GOOD-BYE !!
CH
CLUNK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GRANT! DISTRICT ATTORNEY GRANT !!
CLNK CLNK
WHAT... DO... YOU... WANT!?
UMM.
YOU DROPPED YOUR WALLET ON THE SIDEWALK...
OH... THEN.. THANK YOU.
BONG
BONG

PUFF PUFF PUFF PUFF PUFF
.....
I HAVE IT! AND THERE'S PROOF!!
PUFF
PUFF PUFF PUFF
I'VE FOUND THE FATHER LIZA'S BEEN SEARCHING FOR!
THE ONLY PROBLEM IS..
PUFF
PUFF
...IF MY SUS-PICIONS ARE TRUE...
PUFF PUFF
HM?
KRUTSH

DON DEATH?!

KREECH
YOU'RE...


YOU ARE A NUISANCE !!
SHOULDN'T YOU BE TAKING AN AFTERNOON NAP, LITTLE BOY?

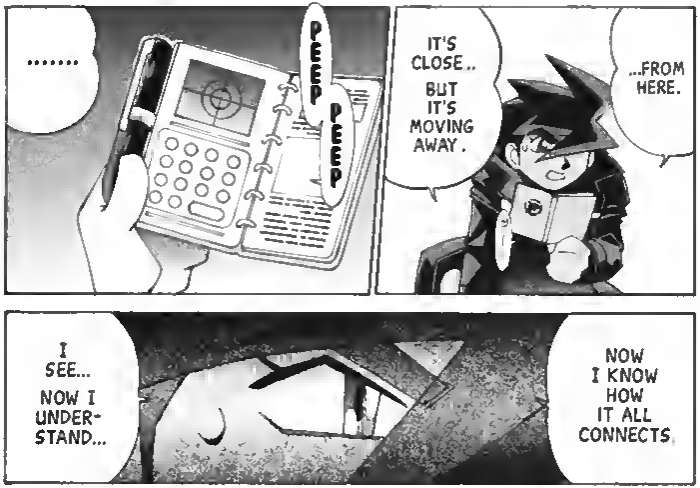
WHAT !?
WOOSH
SHHAK
TOO LATE!

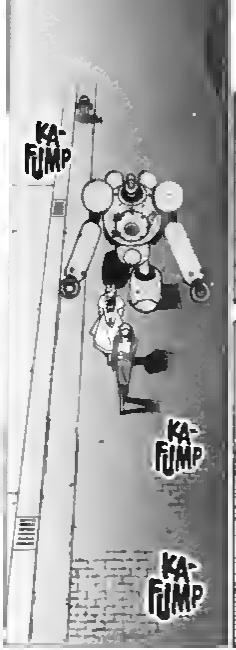
DO-
WONK

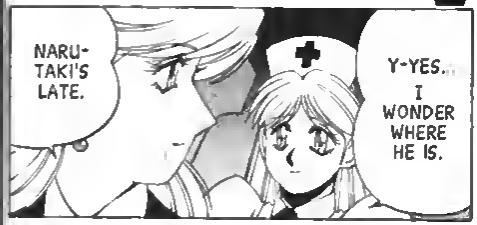
GR RN
HAH!
UUH...

WHUMP
KA-CHAK
.....
COULD IT...
COULD IT BE THAT..
NO...!!

I'D LIKE YOU TO STAY HERE. I'LL GO EXECUTE LIZA FLEISHER
U-UR... STOP...
DON DEATH... YOU...
SKWEEE
Y-Y-YOU'RE REALLY...
KACHANNG
PEMP PEMP PEMP
THE TRANS-MITTER..
CH HP
CH HP
PEMP PEMP


.....
PEEP PEEP
IT'S CLOSE.. BUT IT'S MOVING AWAY.
...FROM HERE.
I SEE... NOW I UNDER-STAND...
NOW I KNOW HOW IT ALL CONNECTS.
BUT... I HATE IT!
KRICH
THIS IS NO TIME TO SIT AND THINK!!
TMP
I HAVE TO STOP DON DEATH!!
OR I'LL REGRET IT MY WHOLE LIFE!
FWEEEEE
MY WHOLE LIFE!


KA-FUMP
KA-FUMP
KA-FUMP


NARU-TAKI'S LATE.
Y-YES.. I WONDER WHERE HE IS.

HONESTLY!
I FINALLY GET TO SEE HIM AFTER ALL THIS TIME, AND HE SUDDENLY ASKS ME TO WATCH OVER LIZA WHILE HE RUNS OFF TO GOODNESS-KNOWS-WHERE!

FWWOOO-
WEEEE

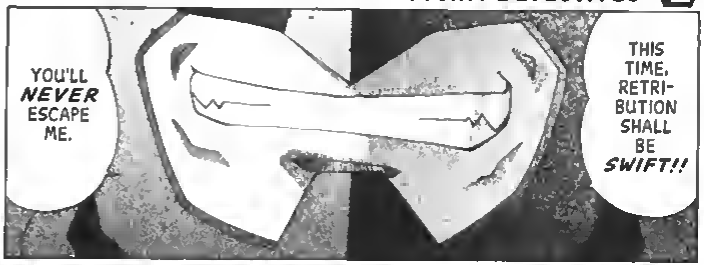
SHUNK
WHAT ??
RR
SHUNK

LING LING!!
SHIK
LIZA, WATCH OUT!! IT COULD BE...

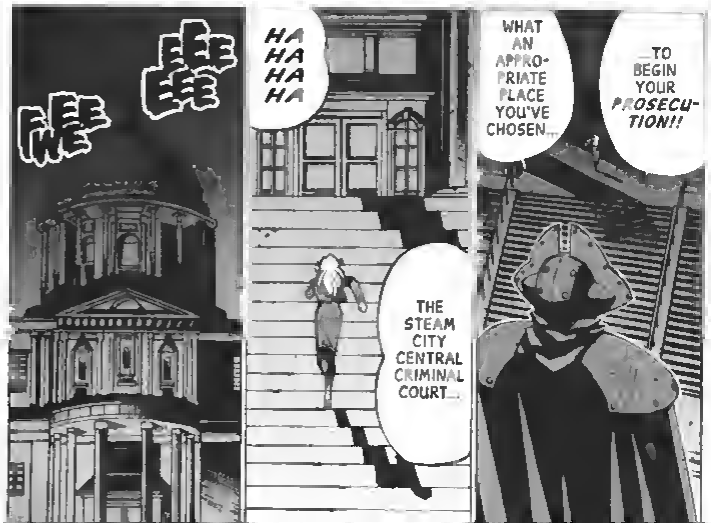
IN-DEED.
IT IS I.
I HAVE COME TO EXECUTE LIZA FLEISHER !!

DON DEATH !!
SHA KK
OW !!

LING LING, GORIKI, I WOULD ADVISE YOU NOT TO MOVE.
MY WIRE CAN CUT THROUGH GORIKI'S STEEL SKIN, AMONG OTHER THINGS. HA HA HAAA.
LIZA, GET OUT OF HERE!! HURRY!!
R-R-RIGHT!
TMP

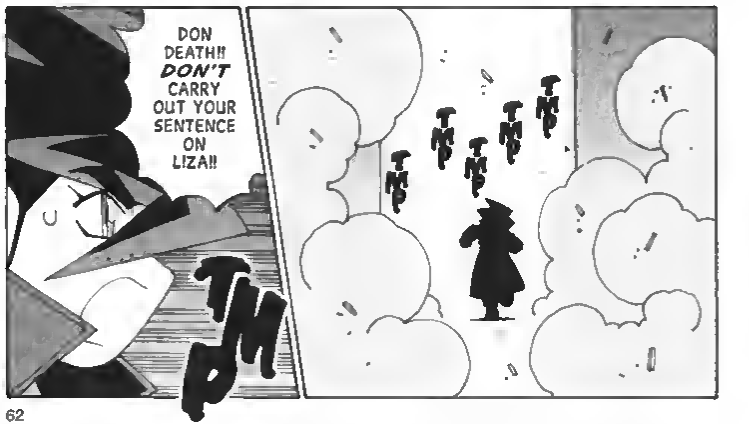

YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE ME.
THIS TIME, RETRI-BUTION SHALL BE SWIFT!!

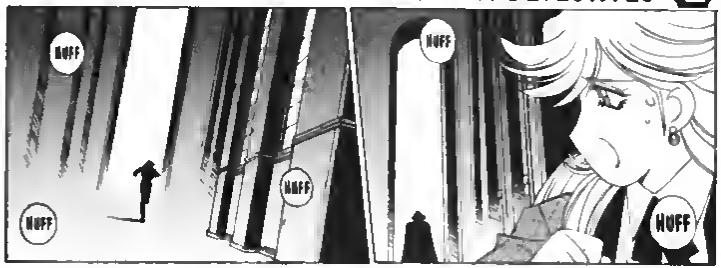
EEEEEEE
FW


EEE EEE EEE ME
HA HA HA HA
THE STEAM CITY CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT...
WHAT AN APPRO-PRIATE PLACE YOU'VE CHOSEN...
...TO BEGIN YOUR PROSECU-TION!!

THREE..
TWO...
ONE...
NARUTAKI'S ▲ BUTTON BOMB

KEEE
SS-NCHH


DON DEATH!! DON'T CARRY OUT YOUR SENTENCE ON LIZA!!
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

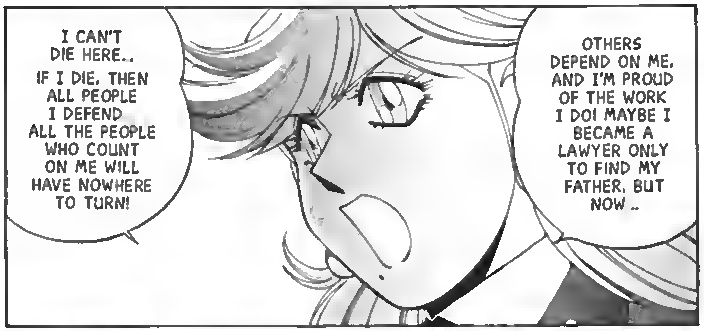

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

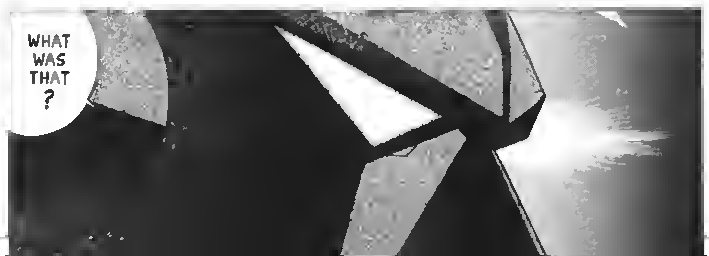
HA HA HA HA HA
KRINCH
KRINCH
KRINCH

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

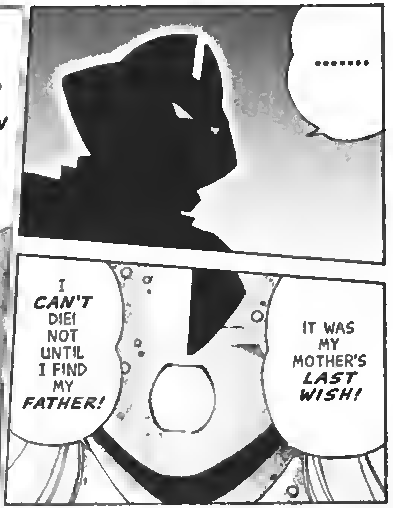
!!
SHHH
UNNK

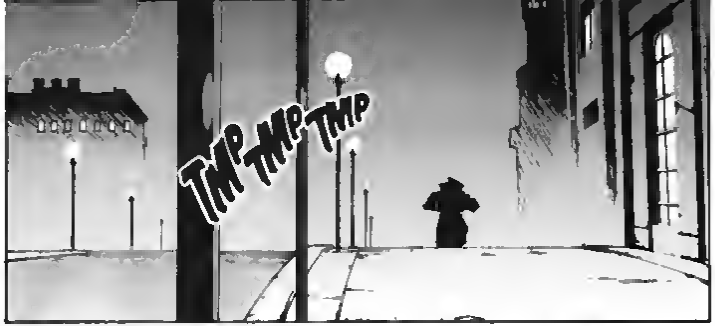
YOU HAVE RUN OUT OF PLACES TO RUN RESIGN YOURSELF TO YOUR FATE
...LIZA FLEISHER
YOU WILL FEEL NOTHING IT WILL BE OVER QUICKLY
NO...


I CAN'T DIE HERE.. IF I DIE, THEN ALL PEOPLE I DEFEND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO COUNT ON ME WILL HAVE NOWHERE TO TURN!
OTHERS DEPEND ON ME, AND I'M PROUD OF THE WORK I DO! MAYBE I BECAME A LAWYER ONLY TO FIND MY FATHER, BUT NOW ..


WHAT WAS THAT ?

AND I HAVEN'T EVEN FOUND HIM YET! I DON'T HAVE A CLUE AS TO WHERE HE IS!
BUT SINCE MY FATHER PRACTICED LAW, I'M CERTAIN HE'S A LAWYER SOME-WHERE!


.....
I CAN'T DIE! NOT UNTIL I FIND MY FATHER!
IT WAS MY MOTHER'S LAST WISH!


TMP TMP TMP

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

VR

HM ?
TMP
TMP

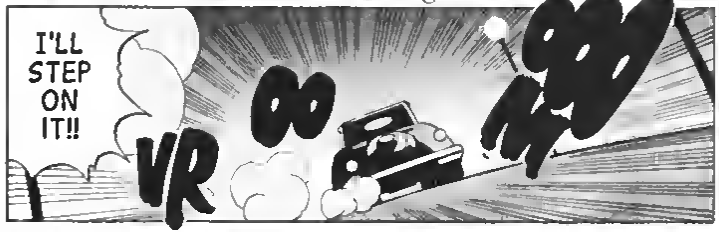
NARU-TAK!!?
NARU-TAK!!?
TMP TMP
HUH ??

REGG!! I NEED YOUR HELP!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER ?
LIZA'S IN *DANGER!!* WE HAVE TO HURRY!!

VRRRR
VR

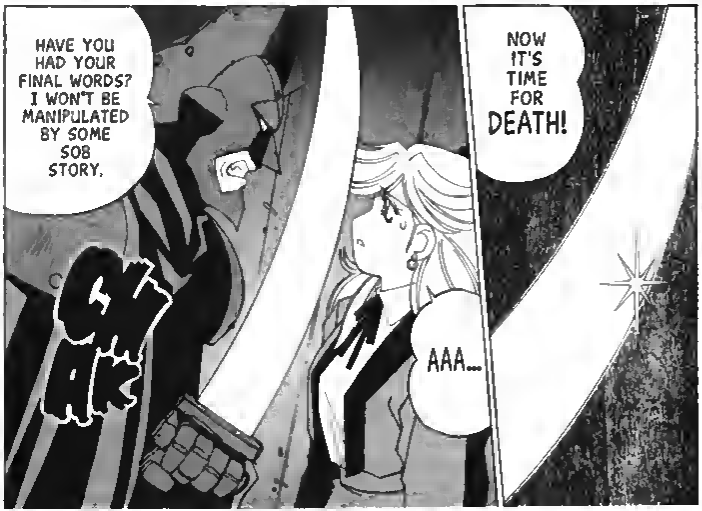
AND WHERE IS DON DEATH ?
I'LL KNOW SOON...

.....
THE CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT !!


I'LL STEP ON IT!!
VR

SHOULD I TELL LIZA THE TRUTH?
DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO STICK MY NOSE *THAT FAR* INTO SOMEONE'S PRIVATE LIFE?

.....
NO, THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.
?
KR IN CH
KR IN CH


HAVE YOU HAD YOUR FINAL WORDS? I WON'T BE MANIPULATED BY SOME SOB STORY.
NOW IT'S TIME FOR DEATH!
AAA...
CHAK AK

!?
KRRO
KRA
KA CHA SHA
WHO WOULD DARE!?
CHA
BAM
I TOLD YOU...
...YOU MUST NOT KILL LIZA!!

IT'S TOO LATE!! HER EXECUTION IS NOW!!
CHA-
KING
DIE !!
SSH
THU
UNN KK
EVEN IF LIZA WERE YOUR OWN DAUGHTER !?
!?!?
WHAT... DID... YOU... SAY...?
WHAT... ?
FWEEEEE
EEEE
EEE

NARUTAKII WHAT DID YOU SAY...?
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
FWOOOSH
NARU-TAKI!!
LIZA IS YOUR DAUGHTER.
N-N-NARU-TAKI...
YOU CAME VERY CLOSE TO KILLING YOUR OWN DAUGHTER.
MERE INCHES.
DON DEATH... IS MY FATHER?
THAT CAN'T BE.
AND, DON DEATH, YOU ARE IN FACT...
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GRANT.
IT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT?
!!
!!
LIZA, I MUST APOLOGIZE. I WASN'T SURE WHETHER YOU SHOULD KNOW.
BUT A FATHER WAS ABOUT TO KILL HIS DAUGHTER.
I JUST COULDN'T ALLOW THAT.
I HOPE YOU'LL UNDER-STAND
NARU-TAKI.

KRICH
HOW...
HOW DID YOU KNOW...
...I WAS DON DEATH ?
KA-CHANG
I ONLY FOUND OUT FOR SURE TONIGHT.
I ALREADY KNEW THAT DISTRICT ATTORNEY GRANT WAS LIZA'S FATHER.
FIRST, THERE WAS THE FRAGRANCE IN THE D.A.'S OFFICE. IT WAS THE SAME SMELL AS THE FAIRLADY BOOKMARK USED IN LIZA'S COMPENDIUM OF LAWS.
THEN I DISCOVERED THAT D.A. GRANT'S COMPENDIUM OF LAWS WAS THE SAME CUSTOM EDITION AS LIZA'S.

THE SAME COMPEN-DIUM AS MINE?
!
.....
THE FINAL CLUE WAS THIS PHOTO-GRAPH.
AN OLD FAMILY PHOTO.
THE LITTLE GIRL IS LIZA.
I FOUND IT IN D.A. GRANT'S COMPEN-DIUM.
LOOK, THE SAME DIS-TINGUISHING BIRTH-MARK..

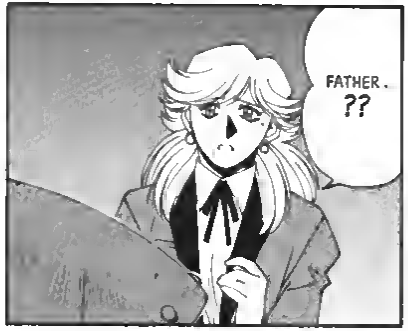
F-FA-FATHER...
ARE YOU REALLY MY FATHER?
HAD IT ENDED THERE, EVERYTHING WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE.
BUT I INTUITIVELY KNEW THAT SOMETHING WAS MISSING
I PLANTED A TRANSMITTER IN GRANT'S WALLET
IN MY WALLET?
I WAS HOPING I'D BE WRONG.
WHEN I WAS ATTACKED BY DON DEATH, THERE WAS THE SAME SCENT OF FAIR-LADY..
I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT.
THEN...

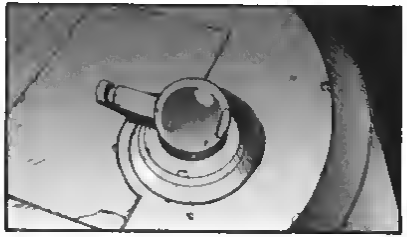
I TRACKED THE SIGNAL FROM D.A. GRANT, LEADING ME DIRECTLY TO DON DEATH...
.....
IT'S ALL TRUE.
KRUNCH
I COULDN'T TOLERATE THE EVIL IN THE WORLD TO COMBAT THAT EVIL. I EVEN GAVE UP THE FAMILY I LOVED SO MUCH.
NO, I DIDN'T GIVE THEM UP, I ABANDONED THEM!!
THE FIGHT AGAINST EVIL CONSUMED ME.
BUT THE LAW THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO PUNISH EVIL, SOMETIMES ENDED UP PROTECTING THEM.
EVIL IS EVIL, NO MATTER WHAT THE LAW SAYS.
I BECAME DON DEATH TO DISPENSE JUSTICE.
BUT THAT, TOO, WAS AN OBSESSION. I WOULD KILL, BELIEVING IN MY CONVICTIONS.

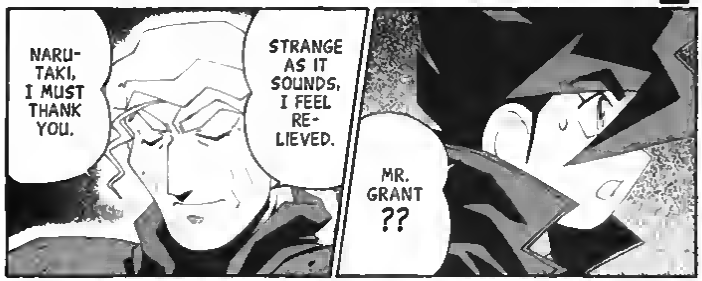
I CONVINCED MYSELF THAT I WAS ONLY DOING IT FOR THE SAKE OF JUSTICE.

IT'S OVER. IT'S ENDED NOW...
YES, DON DEATH IS NOW DEAD...

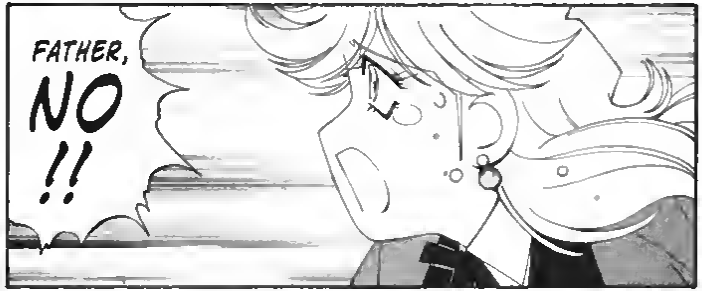
LIZA, CAN YOU FORGIVE ME FOR BEING SUCH A TERRIBLE FATHER?


FATHER. ??

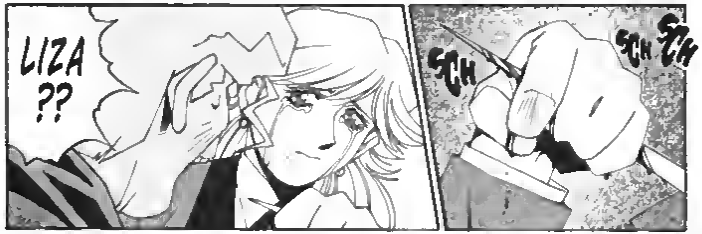


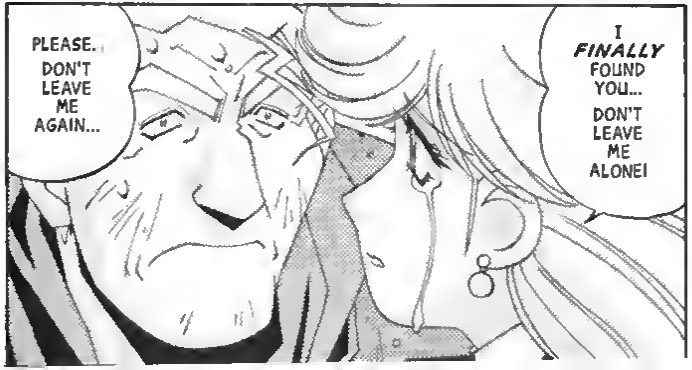

NARUTAKI, I MUST THANK YOU.
STRANGE AS IT SOUNDS, I FEEL RELIEVED.
MR. GRANT ??

I BID YOU FAREWELL!!
SHAK

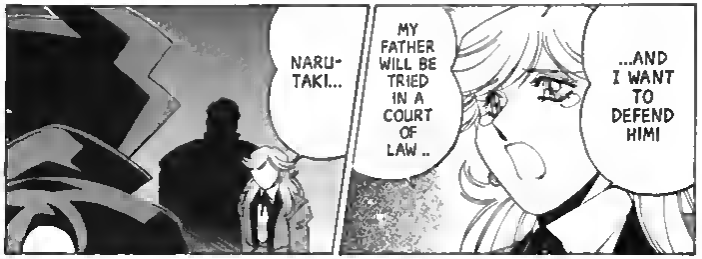

FATHER, NO !!

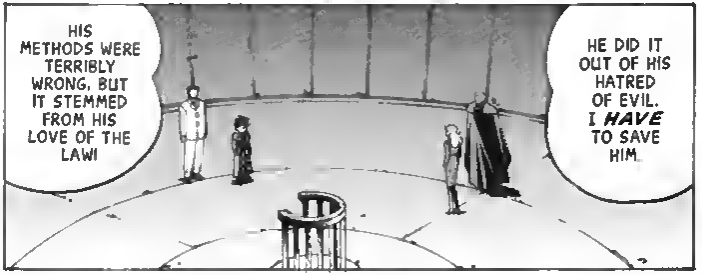
SSSS...
WH-WHAT...??


LIZA??
SCH
SCH
SCH


PLEASE. DON'T LEAVE ME AGAIN...
I FINALLY FOUND YOU... DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!

LIZA... YOU MEAN YOU CAN FORGIVE ME...?
...A MURDERER...??
.....


NARU-TAKI...
MY FATHER WILL BE TRIED IN A COURT OF LAW..
...AND I WANT TO DEFEND HIM!


HIS METHODS WERE TERRIBLY WRONG, BUT IT STEMMED FROM HIS LOVE OF THE LAW!
HE DID IT OUT OF HIS HATRED OF EVIL. I *HAVE* TO SAVE HIM.

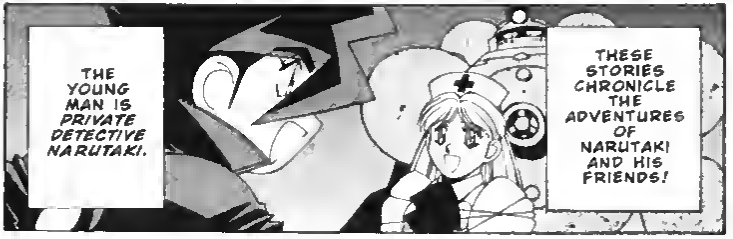
REGG, I'M SORRY. I HAVE A LOT OF WORK LEFT TO DO.
I SIMPLY *CAN'T* GIVE IT UP!!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
GO GET 'EM, LIZA.
THANK YOU.

OH, NO!
LING LING AND GORIKI ARE STILL..

FWEEE
FWEEEE
HONESTLY!
HOW LONG ARE WE SUPPOSED TO STAY THIS WAY!?
RR
HELP, NARU-TAKI!!
THE STREETS HERE.

THE STREETS HERE ARE CONTINUALLY ENSHROUDED IN WHITE MIST. STEAM RISES FROM EVERYWHERE OBSCURING THE STREETS AND BUILDINGS.
BECAUSE COAL IS THE ONLY FUEL AVAILABLE...
AT NIGHT THE WHITE MIST SHROUDS THE DARKNESS INTIMIDATING EVERYONE
PEOPLE CALL THIS CITY ENVELOPED IN MIST..
FWEEE EEEEE
...STEAM CITY.

UNFORTUNATELY, EVILDOERS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS WHITE FOG...
FSSHH!!
...TO COMMIT COUNTLESS CRIMES AND CONTINUALLY BAFFLE THE POLICE
AND ONE YOUNG MAN TAKES ON THESE CRIMINALS. HE SOLVES THE INNUMERABLE CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE EVILDOERS.
TMPTMP
TMPTMP


THE YOUNG MAN IS PRIVATE DETECTIVE NARUTAKI.
THESE STORIES CHRONICLE THE ADVENTURES OF NARUTAKI AND HIS FRIENDS!

STEAM DETECTIVES PRESS

WORKING GIRL INTERVIEW

Featured Guest: LIZA FLEISHER (28)
Interviewer: Marie Olissa
The latest in our series featuring career women on the cutting edge
Our featured guest is the up-and-coming lawyer Liza Fleisher, who recently made her mark in the Don Death trial

MARIE OLISSA ATTORNEY LIZA FLEISHER

MARIE Your defense of Don Death was truly impressive
LIZA Thank you I have the people of this city to thank for the results

M Everyone thought that he would be sentenced much more severely Who would have predicted that he would receive a stay of execution, a 2-year prison sentence and 3 years of probation!?
L Perhaps the sentence might be considered a little light What he did was abominable But I believe his devotion to justice touched the hearts of the jury
M What will your fu -I mean Mr Grant what will he do now?
L That remains to be determined He lost his job but he gained a family I think he has decided to start a new life concentrating on making a home
M One last personal question if we may We've heard rumors concerning you and a certain Detective named Regg
L I'll think about that after Mr Grant has served his term (laughs)
M Thank you for your time

REGG (32) A DETECTIVE

KYOKO MITSUBOSHI

In our next issue, we'll be featuring opera singer Kyoko Mitsuboshi (25), whose recent concert at the Imperial Theater broke all attendance records She'll be sharing the trials and tribulations of her life as a vocalist

THE DEFENDANT GRANT (DON DEATH)

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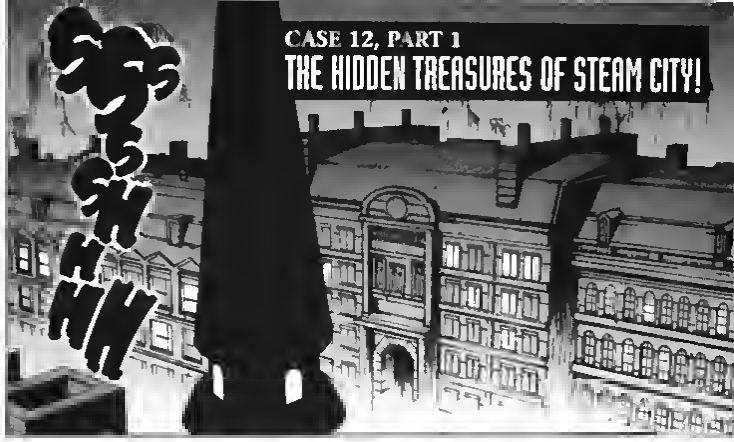
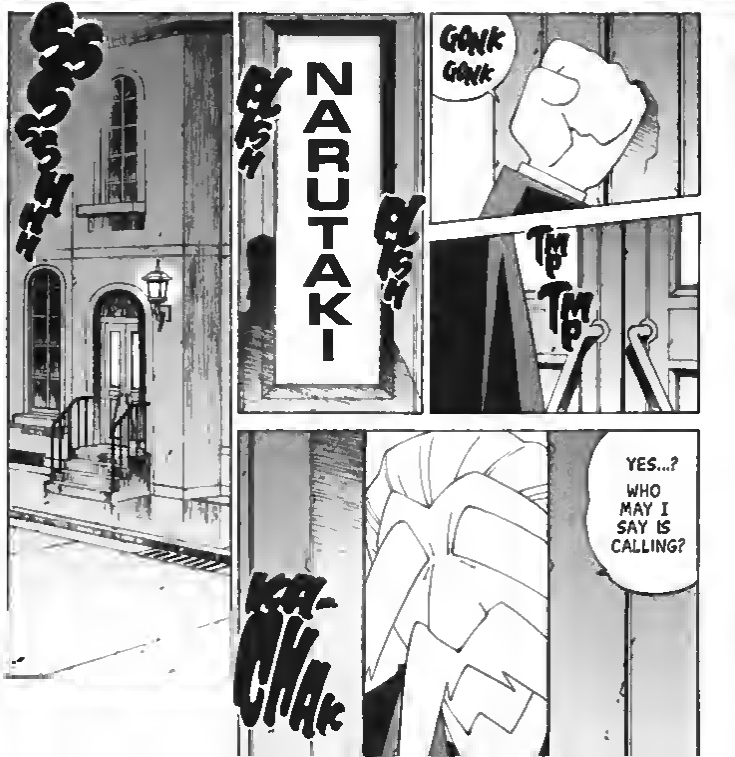
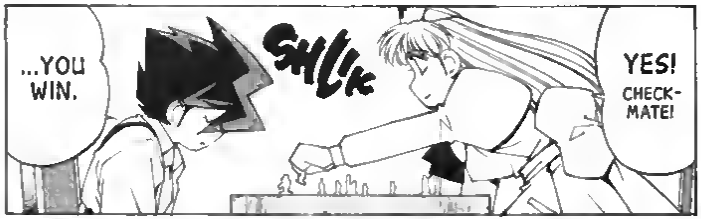


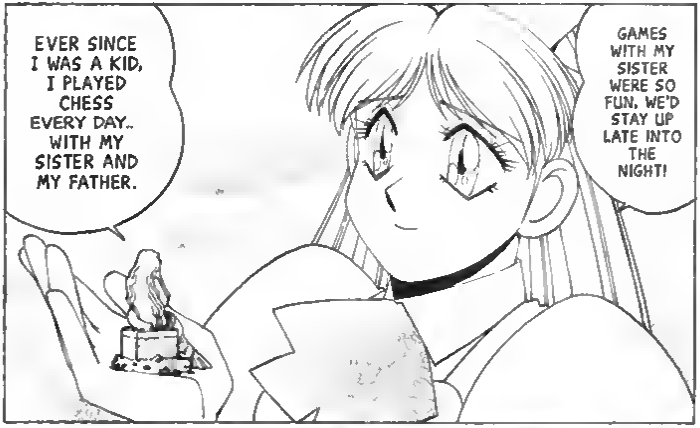


OH!
I-- I WANT TO TAKE THAT MOVE BACK.
NO, SIR! THAT'S THE THIRD TIME.
LING LING..
HMM...
A GIRL CAN'T WAIT FOR-EVER.


...YOU WIN.
SHUK
YES! CHECK-MATE!

MY SIXTH VICTORY IN A ROW.

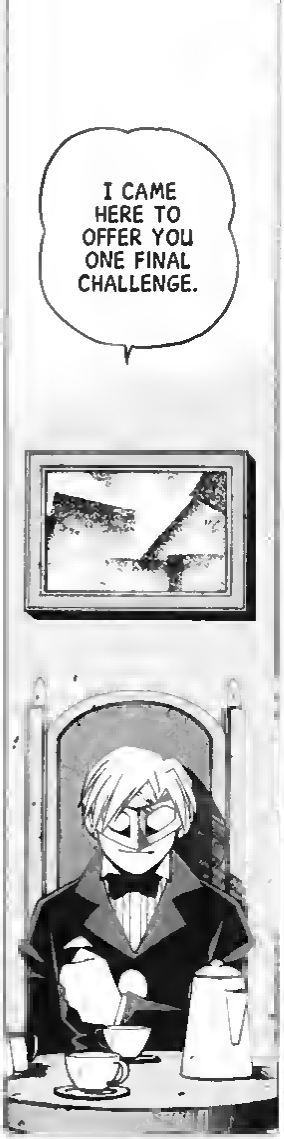
YOU ALWAYS BEAT ME IN CHESS.
HA HA


EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I PLAYED CHESS EVERY DAY.. WITH MY SISTER AND MY FATHER.
GAMES WITH MY SISTER WERE SO FUN. WE'D STAY UP LATE INTO THE NIGHT!

AH... SIR, YOU HAVE A VISITOR... IT'S...
WHAT'S WRONG, KAWAKUBO? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO BE SO SHAKEN...
WOULDN'T YOU BE IF I WERE TO SHOW UP!?
TAK

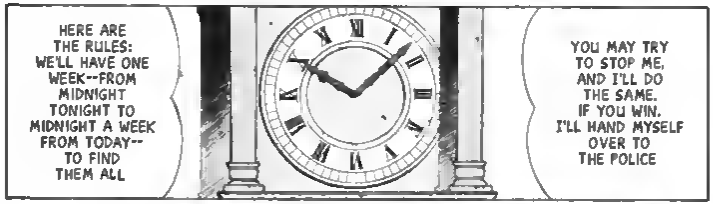
L-LE BREAD !?!
IT HAS BEEN QUITE A WHILE... YOU SEEM WELL.
SO YOU SUR-VIVED !?!
CASE 12, PART 1
THE HIDDEN TREASURES OF STERM CITY!

YES, I MANAGED. MY RECOVERY TOOK QUITE SOME TIME, HOWEVER.
WOUNDS FROM SUCH A DISASTER WOULD TAKE A WHILE.
FSSH
.....
MORE-OVER..
...THIS SCAR YOU GAVE ME IS A CONSTANT RE-MINDER.
A RE-MINDER OF OUR CONNEC-TION.
THUMP
AND I APPRE-CIATE IT, NARU-TAKI.

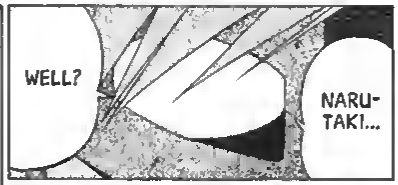

I CAME HERE TO OFFER YOU ONE FINAL CHALLENGE.

A CHAL-LENGE ??
INDEED. WERE YOU AWARE OF THE FIVE HIDDEN TREASURES IN STEAM CITY?
HIDDEN TREA-SURES ?
EXACTLY. THE FIVE.
FIVE PRICELESS ITEMS ARE HIDDEN SOMEWHERE WITHIN THIS CITY.
SSHHHHHHH
LET'S SEE WHICH ONE OF US CAN FIND THE TREASURES FIRST?
IT'LL BE OUR GAME.
HHH

A CHAL-LENGE TO FIND HIDDEN TREASURES...
.....
HOW ABOUT IT? I'M TIRED OF OUR DESTRUCTIVE DUELS IT'S NOT MY STYLE ANYMORE
A BATTLE OF WITS.


HERE ARE THE RULES: WE'LL HAVE ONE WEEK--FROM MIDNIGHT TONIGHT TO MIDNIGHT A WEEK FROM TODAY-- TO FIND THEM ALL
YOU MAY TRY TO STOP ME, AND I'LL DO THE SAME. IF YOU WIN, I'LL HAND MYSELF OVER TO THE POLICE

AND WHAT IF I LOSE ?
THEN YOU WILL NEVER AGAIN INTERFERE WITH ME OR MY PROJECTS.

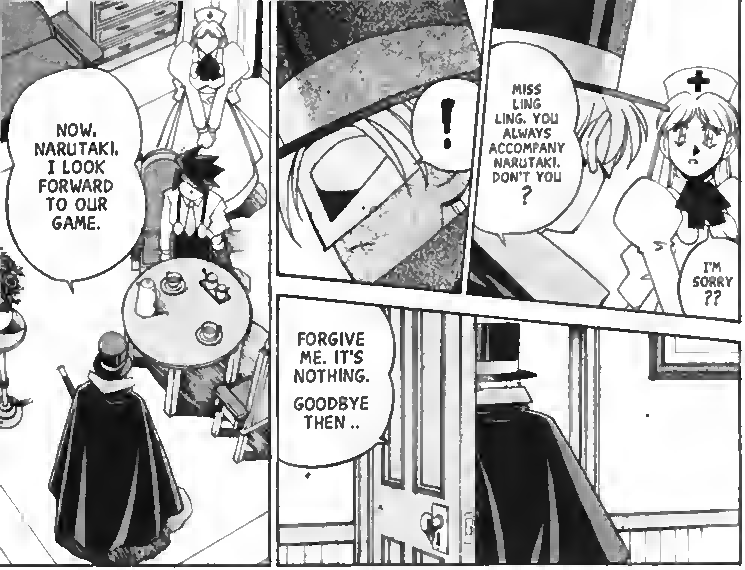

WELL?
NARU-TAKI...

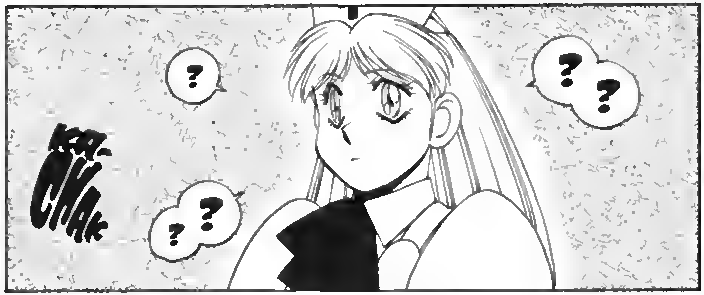
ALL RIGHT. I'LL DO IT.

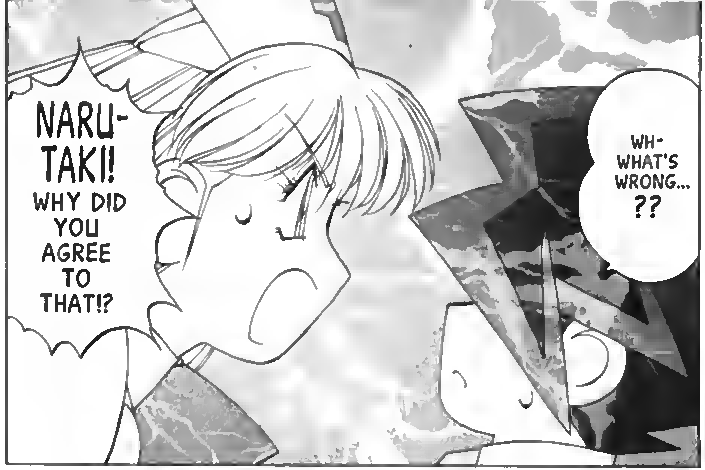
HA HAH. YOU ARE THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE! YOU WOULD NEVER REFUSE SUCH A CHALLENGE!
THESE ARE THE CLUES TO THE HIDDEN TREASURES! TAKE IT!
THEY DON'T MAKE SENSE.
THEY ARE IN CODE EACH REVEALS THE LOCATION OF ONE OF THE TREASURES.

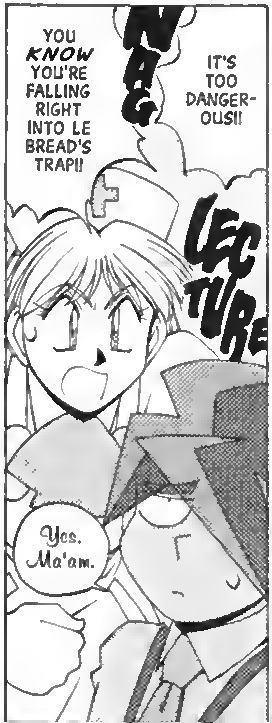
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THESE FIVE TREASURES FOR A LONG TIME.

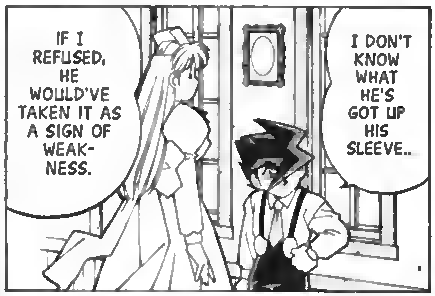
BUT FINALLY I DISCOVERED THESE CODES WRITTEN BY THE THIEVES WHO ORIGINALLY STOLE THEM
BUT WHAT KIND OF CHALLENGE WOULD IT HAVE BEEN WERE I TO HAVE THE CODES AND YOU NOT? SO HERE YOU ARE.

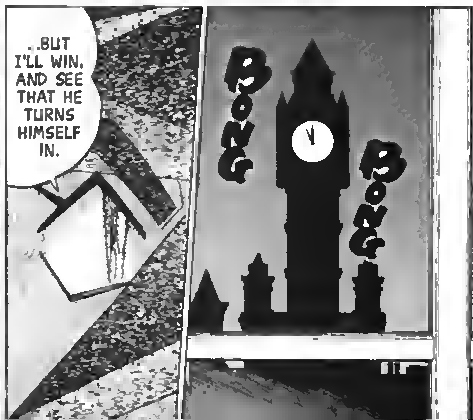

NOW, NARUTAKI, I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR GAME.
!
MISS LING LING. YOU ALWAYS ACCOMPANY NARUTAKI. DON'T YOU ?
I'M SORRY ??
FORGIVE ME. IT'S NOTHING.
GOODBYE THEN ..


?
?
? ?
? ?
HEH-HAH

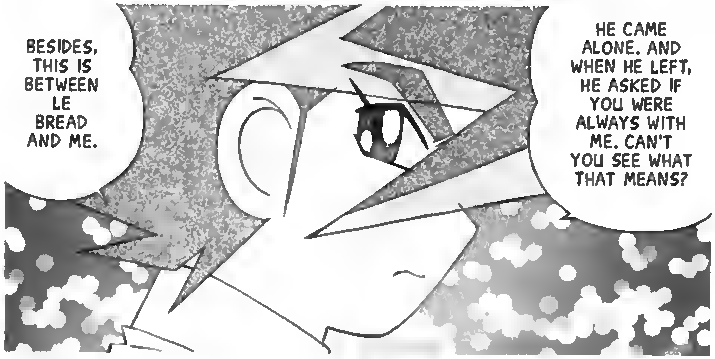

NARU-TAKI! WHY DID YOU AGREE TO THAT!?
WH-WHAT'S WRONG... ??


YOU KNOW YOU'RE FALLING RIGHT INTO LE BREAD'S TRAP!!
IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!!
NAG
LEC TURE
Yes, Ma'am.

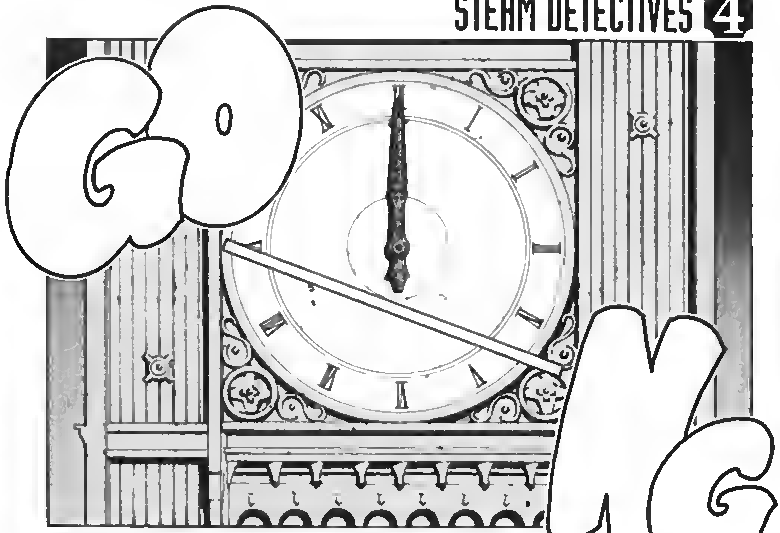

IF I REFUSED, HE WOULD'VE TAKEN IT AS A SIGN OF WEAK-NESS.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S GOT UP HIS SLEEVE..


..BUT I'LL WIN, AND SEE THAT HE TURNS HIMSELF IN.
BONG
BONG

THEN I'M GOING WITH YOU!!
WE'LL FIND THE TREASURES TOGETHER!
YOU CAN'T
I HAVE A FEELING THAT THIS TIME IT'LL BE REALLY DANGER-OUS.


BESIDES, THIS IS BETWEEN LE BREAD AND ME.
HE CAME ALONE. AND WHEN HE LEFT, HE ASKED IF YOU WERE ALWAYS WITH ME. CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT THAT MEANS?

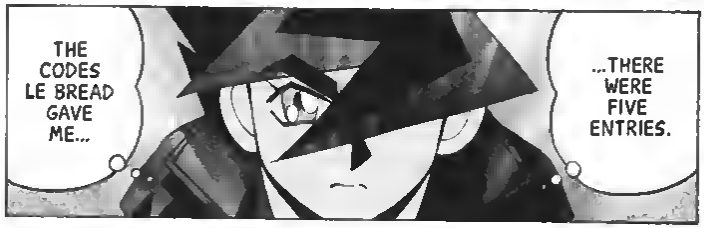
BUT...
BUT...
BUT...
KNOCK


GONG
VROM
VROM
VROM
FLASH

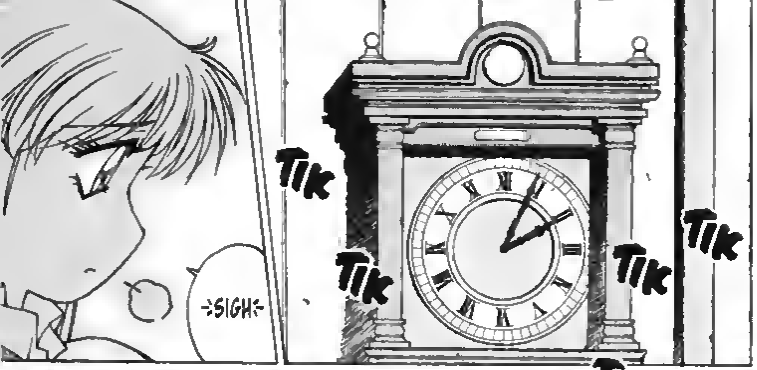
PUFF
PUFF

PUFF PUFF PUFF
HM... ??

TMP
RITE RITE RITE
.....
HONESTLY! THAT BOY!
RITE RITE RITE
DON'T GO GETTING YOURSELF HURT...
...NARUTAKI...
FW EEE EEE EEEE
HA HA HA HA HAA
RITE RITE
YOU ARE SO PUNCTUAL! HOW ADMIRABLE OF YOU!



1. The Cock Robin is all eyes.
2. M15014L9G8T/P1R11/KNOWS.
3. The Knight marches when the Horned Woman appears.
4. 738222912193A.
5.

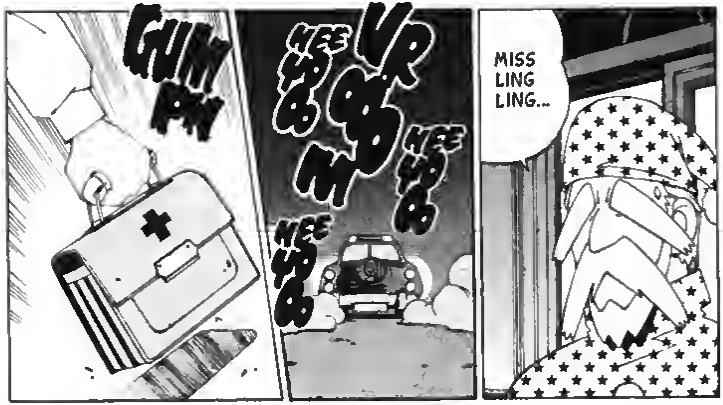

TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
-SIGH-

I KNEW I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP...
-SIGH-
WHY DOES HE MAKE ME WORRY LIKE THIS?
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
IT'S THE POLICE!! OPEN UP!!

THE POLICE!? WHAT COULD THEY WANT?
DON'T WORRY, KAWA-KUBO.
I'LL GET IT...
MISS LING LING?

WHAT!? NARUTAKI'S BEEN IN AN ACCIDENT!?
HE WAS HIT BY A CAR!? HOW COULD THAT BE!?

WE'LL NEED SOMEONE TO COME WITH US.
I-- I'LL GO!!
BUT MISS LING LING, NARU-TAKI'S...
I'LL BE FINE. I'LL CONTACT YOU AS SOON AS POS-SIBLE!


GUN PA
NEE YO
NEE YO
NEE YO
MISS LING LING...

OFFICER, WILL NARUTAKI BE ALL RIGHT?
HEE HO
HEE HO
HEE HO
HE STILL HAD A PULSE WHEN I LAST SAW HIM.
BUT IF HE DOESN'T GET TO A HOSPITAL AND INTO SURGERY.
I SEE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING NOW!?
TO LE BREAD'S CASTLE.
WHAT!? WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
KR-CHK
NO OOOOO!
FFSS SHH

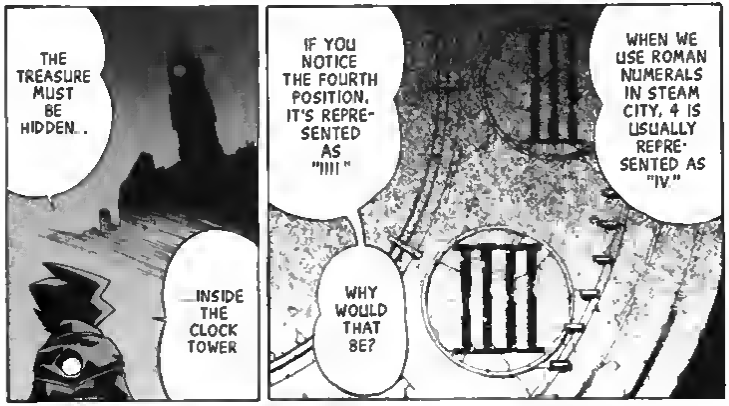
-:COUGH:-
-:COUGH:-
TUNK
HA HA HA HA
NARUTAKI WILL SOON JOIN YOU AT LE BREAD'S CASTLE...
...AS A CORPSE
VR OO OOM

KREECH
PUTT PUTT
LET'S SEE..
PUTT
THE CASTLE OF THE FOURTH EARL OF CHANNEL
FWEE
EEEEE
THE FIRST TREASURE WILL PROBABLY BE HERE

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SO NARUTAKI ??
!!
LE BREAD ??
FWOOSH
YOU FOL-LOWED ME?
AND WHAT IF I DID?
THEN IT ENDS HERE. I WANT NO PART OF YOUR GAME.
AND YOUR REASONS ??
FWEEEEE
YOUR PLAN IS TO HAVE ME SOLVE YOUR PUZZLES, THEN FOLLOW ME TO STEAL THE TREASURE FOR YOURSELF.

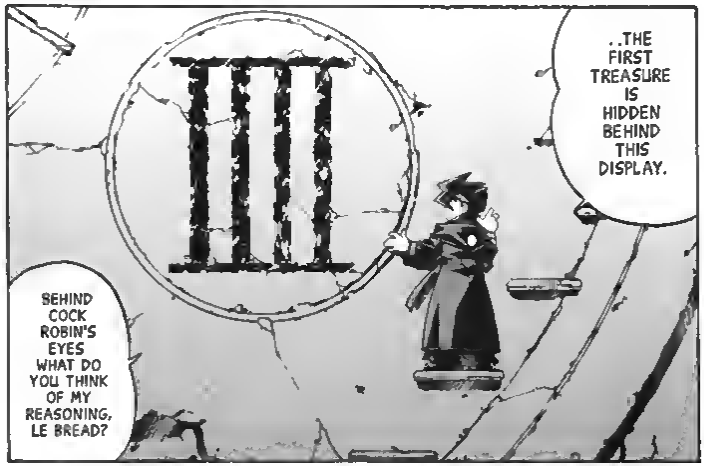
HA HAHA. WHAT A CLEVER PLAN!
I SUP-POSE...
...I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR SUSPECT-ING THAT.
SO IT'S TRUE ??
SHALL WE BE REASONABLE? IF YOU SOLVE THE RIDDLE AND OBTAIN THE TREASURES, I PROMISE I WILL TAKE NO ITEM FROM YOU.
I SWEAR ON MY NAME!
.....
I'LL TRUST YOU...
FWEE
EEE
EEEE

THE FIRST CODE WAS, "THE COCK ROBIN IS ALL EYES." THE ORIGINAL OWNER OF THIS CASTLE WAS THE FOURTH EARL OF CHANNEL. HE WAS SAID TO LAUGH LIKE A COCK ROBIN. AND SO HE WAS CALLED THE COCK ROBIN KING.
FW
EEEEEE
APPARENTLY, THE CALL OF A COCK ROBIN RESEMBLES THE NEIGHING OF A HORSE THAT WAS THE SOUND OF HIS LAUGHTER.

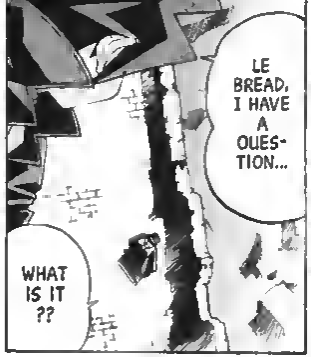

THE TREASURE MUST BE HIDDEN..
...INSIDE THE CLOCK TOWER
IF YOU NOTICE THE FOURTH POSITION, IT'S REPRE-SENTED AS "IIII."
WHY WOULD THAT BE?
WHEN WE USE ROMAN NUMERALS IN STEAM CITY, 4 IS USUALLY REPRE-SENTED AS "IV."

THE FOURTH EARL OF CHANNEL ALLEGEDLY DETESTED THE NEIGHBORING DUKE BURNE THE FIFTH, AND HE COULDN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF INCLUDING THE "V" IN HIS NAME.
SO HE USED "IIII" FOR THE 4 ON THE CLOCK FACE.

THE ONLY PUBLIC PLACE IN STEAM CITY WHERE THE NUMBER 4 IS DISPLAYED AS "IIII".
..IS THIS CASTLE.
THE "EYE" WOULD ACTUALLY BE "I."
IN OTHER WORDS...


..THE FIRST TREASURE IS HIDDEN BEHIND THIS DISPLAY.
BEHIND COCK ROBIN'S EYES WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY REASONING, LE BREAD?

BRAVO, NARUTAKI. I THINK YOU'VE GOT IT.
CONGRATULATIONS. THE FIRST TREASURE IS YOURS.


LE BREAD, I HAVE A QUES-TION...
WHAT IS IT ??

WHAT EXACTLY WOULD THIS TREASURE BE?
SOME-THING MORE OR LESS...

..LIKE THIS.

LING LING...

LING LING... WAKE UP, IT'S MORNING.

HM...

WHERE AM I !?!

WHAT AM I DOING HERE !?!

FWOOSH

YOU AREN'T... THE POLICE, ARE YOU?

HA HA HA

INDEED, I'M NOT.

RR IP

RR IP

W-WH-WHY...

RR IP

RR IP

FW UP

...YOU'RE...

LANG LANG !?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, LING LING...

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO LAZE AROUND IN BED?

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A LATE SLEEPER. YOU SNOOZE, YOU LOSE.

PER-HAPS, BUT...

BUT WHAT ??

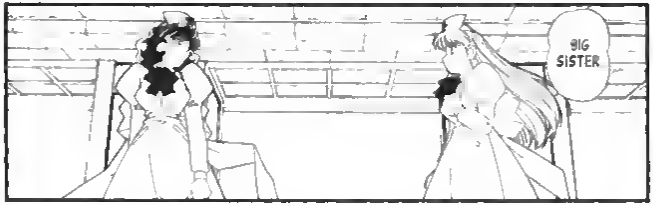
IN OUR CHESS GAMES, I ALWAYS WON...

BIG SISTER.

STEAM DETECTIVES PRESS

THEY'RE SISTERS!!

LING LING AND LANG LANG—THE SECRET BEHIND THE HSU FAMILY!!



THE FATEFUL REUNION! LANG LANG NSU (19) AND LING LING NSU (16)

We now know the true nature of the relationship between Ling Ling and Lang Lang mentioned in our previous report in Volume 004! The nurse in black working for the boy criminal Le Blead is in fact the older sister of Nerutaki Detective Agency's beautiful assistant!

This is our exclusive special investigative report! The news must come as a big shock to Ling Ling fans. One sister a partner in crime, the other a partner in justice. How could two sisters have ended up as such extreme opposites?

Upon our request for an interview, the novelist Ms. Mimi Feiffer only responded with a no comment. She seems to be aware of the young woman's activities, but Ms. Feiffer remains obstinate in her refusal to speak. For our next issue, our staff will undertake a risky investigation into Lang Lang's private life.

THE FIFTEENTH STEAM CITY CHESS TOURNAMENT!!

AND THE TOURNAMENT NEEDS YOU AS A CONTESTANT!

The Steam City Chess Tournament Committee has announced its call for players in the annual open tournament. Contestants may apply to either of two divisions: Junior or General Competition. As a special attraction, this year, the committee has invited Grandmaster S. Ericksen to play an exhibition game against the steam powered computer "Mens Use"—the match of the century! Ling Ling from the Nerutaki Detective Agency will take on all challengers on the opening day. Would-be chess experts should contact the Steam City Chess Tournament Committee.

Contact: The Steam City Chess Tournament Committee at Tel 0059 378-C7709D

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CASE 12, PART 2

TRAGIC SISTERS: LING LING AND LANG LANG

BLAMM
MM
MM
MM
GWOGH
.....
HA HA HA
GWOGH
GW OG OGH
WHAT IS THIS ??
K RR MM
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, LE BREAD!?
MM
Bu

THAT'S MY NARU-TAKI.
I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT IN SO SMALL AN EXPLO-SION.
GR RR...
YOU ARE MY TRUE RIVAL.

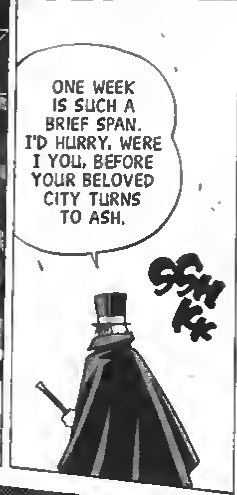
THERE ARE FOUR MORE TREASURES LEFT. CAN YOU FIND THEM NARUTAKI !?
GWOGH
INSTEAD THERE ARE FIVE BOMBS. THAT ONE WAS THE FIRST.
GW OG GH
GWH
THE OTHER FOUR ARE HIDDEN ALL OVER STEAM CITY.
LE BREAD...
OF COURSE THERE NEVER WERE ANY TREASURES TO BEGIN WITH
THEY WILL ALL EXPLODE WITHIN ONE WEEK. HA HA HA HA HA.

THE CODES I GAVE YOU ARE CLUES TO WHERE EACH BOMB IS PLANTED! YOU HAVE FOUR LEFT!!
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DEFUSE THEM ALL IN A WEEK, NARUTAK!!? BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T...

...THIS ENTIRE CITY WILL GO UP IN FLAMES!!
WHAT TREASURES I PRO-VIDE!!

I SHALL KEEP MY WORD, IF YOU DO INDEED FIND ALL THE BOMBS...
...I WILL TURN MYSELF IN TO THE POLICE.

LE BREAD! YOU ARE...


ONE WEEK IS SUCH A BRIEF SPAN. I'D HURRY, WERE I YOU, BEFORE YOUR BELOVED CITY TURNS TO ASH.
SSH K+

HA HA HA HA
GW GH
GW GH

GR RR RR!

GWOOGHHH
GWOOGHHH

LANG LANG, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS ??
WHY? IT'S ALL FOR LE BREAD, OF COURSE.
HE NEEDS TIME TO FIGHT NARU-TAKI.
DO YOU HAVE COM-PLAINTS ABOUT YOUR TREAT-MENT?
I THINK IT SUITS YOU PER-FECTLY!
YOU'LL HAVE TO SIT STILL FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE.

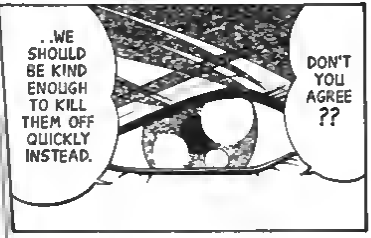
I'LL BE GOING. YOU CAN HOLD OUT FOR ONE WEEK.
STOP IT, LANG LANG!! STOP DOING THESE AWFUL THINGS!!
AWFUL? I DON'T WORRY ABOUT GOOD OR BAD! I DO WHAT I DO FOR HIM.
AND IF IT IS FOR HIS SAKE, THERE CAN BE NOTHING BAD ABOUT IT! I'VE DONE NOTHING AWFUL.
THAT'S NOT...
FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, WHEN YOU OPPOSE LE BREAD, YOU'RE THE BAD ONE!
IT'LL ALL BE OVER SOON ANYWAY. LE BREAD WILL KILL NARUTAKI. THEN NARU-TAKI WILL BE MINE

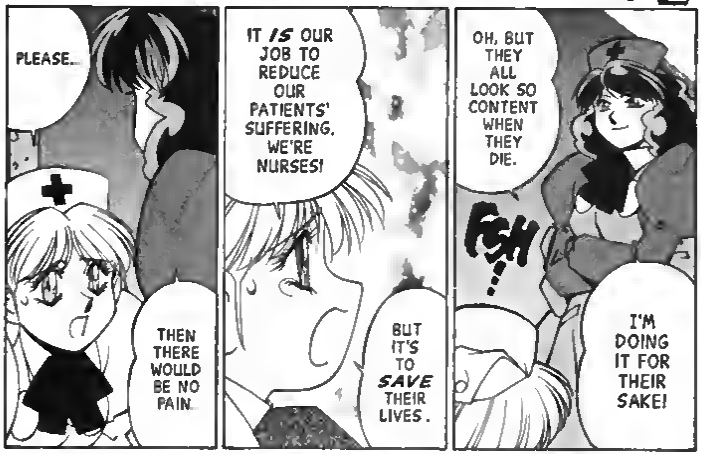
YOU WOULD HAVE NEVER SAID SUCH THINGS BEFORE!
YOU WERE SO KIND! I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE JUST LIKE YOU!

BUT I'M NOT THE OLD ME. I REMEMBER THOSE TIMES...
AFTER THE DEATH OF FATHER YOU BECAME A NURSE

I, ON THE OTHER HAND, GAVE UP NURSING THE SICK
YOU CAN WORK YOUR HEART OUT NURSING SOMEONE, BUT THEY DIE ANYWAY!

TO KEEP PEOPLE ALIVE IS ONLY THE ACT OF EXTENDING THEIR SUFFERING
IF THAT'S SO...


..WE SHOULD BE KIND ENOUGH TO KILL THEM OFF QUICKLY INSTEAD.
DON'T YOU AGREE ??

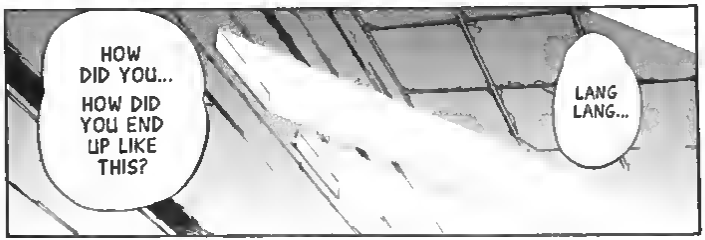

PLEASE..
THEN THERE WOULD BE NO PAIN.
IT IS OUR JOB TO REDUCE OUR PATIENTS' SUFFERING. WE'RE NURSES!
BUT IT'S TO SAVE THEIR LIVES.
OH, BUT THEY ALL LOOK SO CONTENT WHEN THEY DIE.
FSH
I'M DOING IT FOR THEIR SAKE!

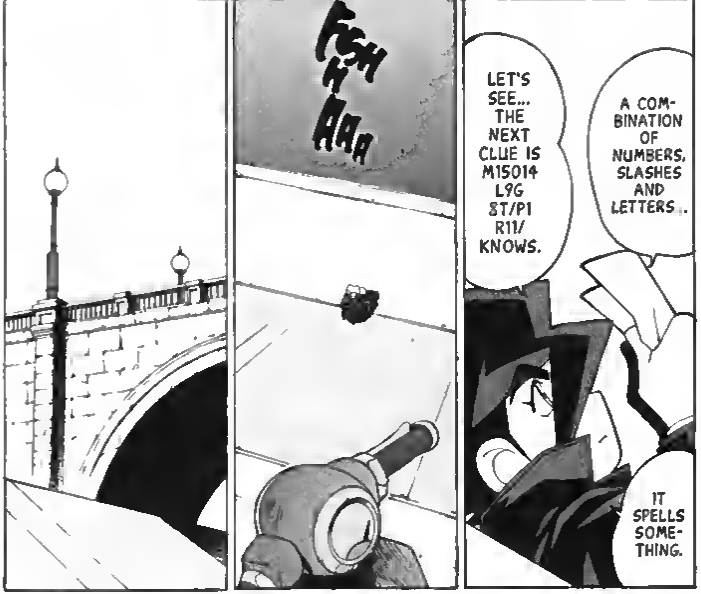
DO YOU KNOW WHY I WEAR THIS BLACK UNIFORM?
IT'S MY MOURNING DRESS FOR MY PATIENTS. THOSE WHO CHOOSE A PEACEFUL DEATH!

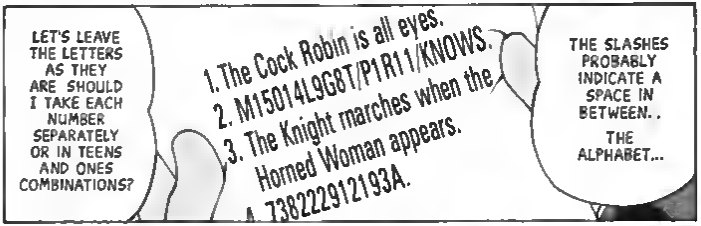
STOP IT... STOP IT...
PLEASE! YOU'RE MY SISTER, LANG LANG...
HAH!

YOU JUST REST HERE.
.....
LANG LANG...

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE, GO AHEAD AND TRY.
BUT I DOUBT YOU'LL EVER MAKE IT OUT OF THIS CASTLE
CHING
HA HA HA HA
CHAK
KER CHUD
.....

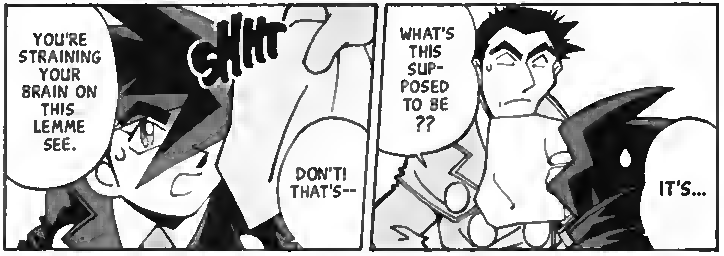

HOW DID YOU... HOW DID YOU END UP LIKE THIS?
LANG LANG...


FISH N AAA
LET'S SEE... THE NEXT CLUE IS M15014 L9G 8T/P1 R11/ KNOWS.
A COMBINATION OF NUMBERS, SLASHES AND LETTERS..
IT SPELLS SOMETHING.

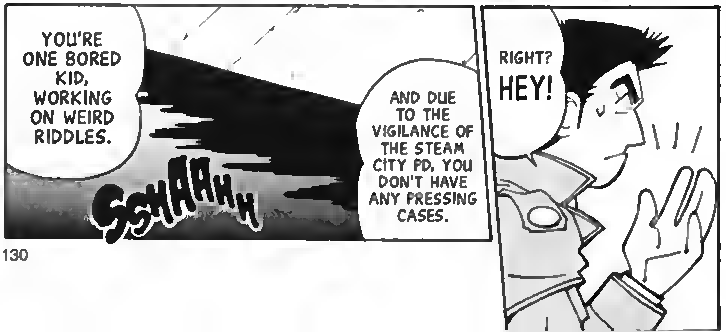

LET'S LEAVE THE LETTERS AS THEY ARE SHOULD I TAKE EACH NUMBER SEPARATELY OR IN TEENS AND ONES COMBINATIONS?
1. The Cock Robin is all eyes.
2. M15014L9G8T/P1R11/KNOWS.
3. The Knight marches when the Horned Woman appears.
4. 738222912193A.
THE SLASHES PROBABLY INDICATE A SPACE IN BETWEEN..
THE ALPHABET...

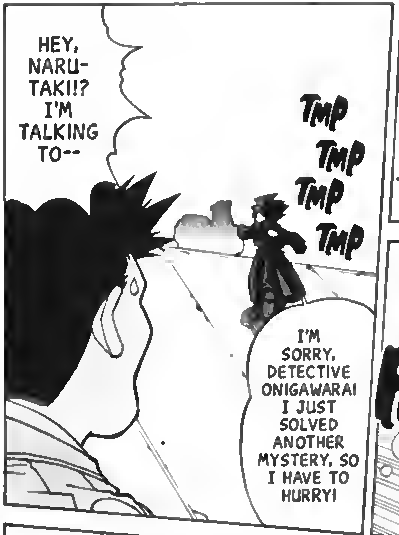
IF I SUBSTITUTE LETTERS FOR THE NUMBERS..
IT'S YOU, NARUTAKI
WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN THERE ??
HM ??
SCHA

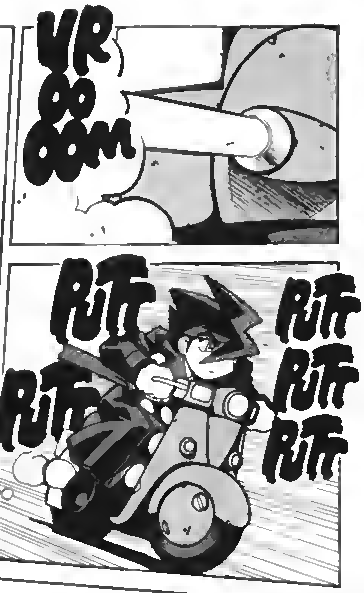
DETECTIVE ONIGAWARA!
ARE YOU OUT SUN-BATHING? BOY, I WISH I WERE A KID AGAIN.

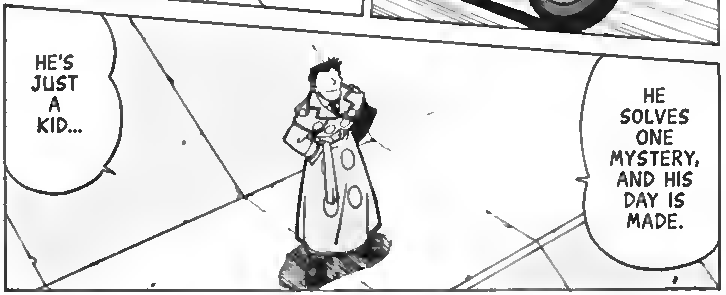

YOU'RE STRAINING YOUR BRAIN ON THIS LEMME SEE.
SHIT
DON'T! THAT'S--
WHAT'S THIS SUP-POSED TO BE ??
IT'S...

...A MYSTERY.
A DEEP, DARK MYSTERY!

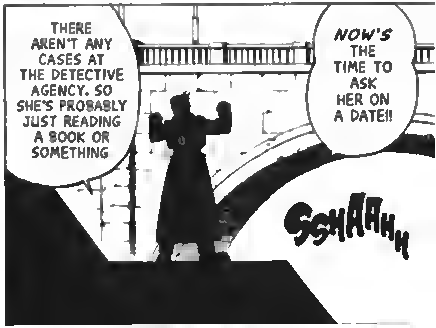

YOU'RE ONE BORED KID, WORKING ON WEIRD RIDDLES.
SSHAAHH
AND DUE TO THE VIGILANCE OF THE STEAM CITY PD, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PRESSING CASES.
RIGHT?
HEY!

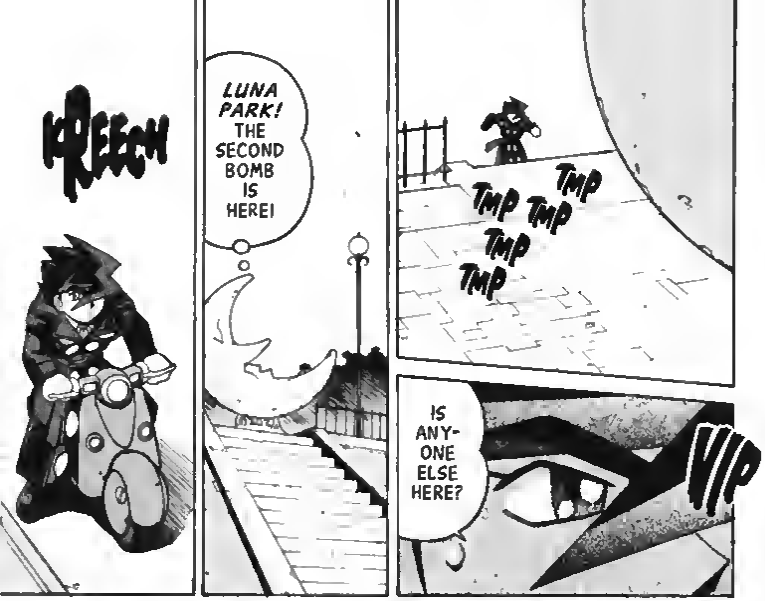

HEY, NARU-TAKI!? I'M TALKING TO--
TMP TMP TMP TMP
I'M SORRY, DETECTIVE ONIGAWARA! I JUST SOLVED ANOTHER MYSTERY, SO I HAVE TO HURRY!

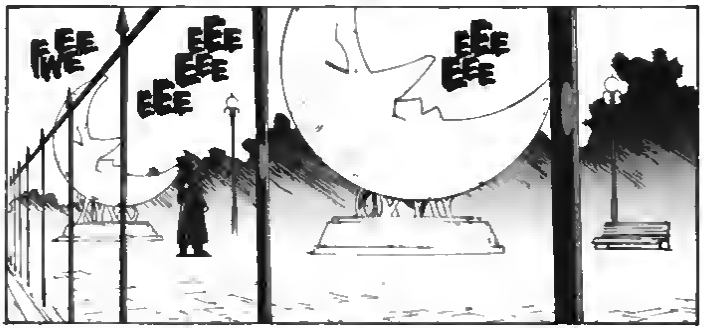

VROOOOM
PUTT PUTT PUTT PUTT PUTT


HE'S JUST A KID...
HE SOLVES ONE MYSTERY, AND HIS DAY IS MADE.

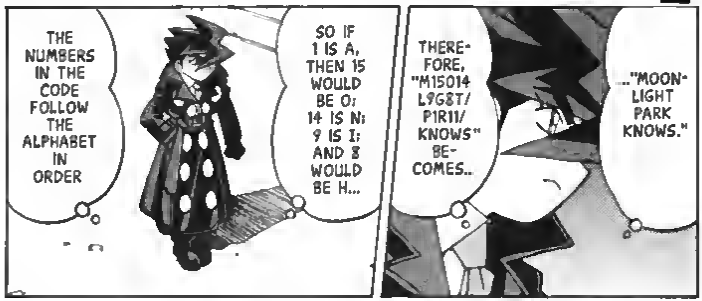
HEY! ISN'T LING LING USUALLY WITH HIM ??
HOW ODD.

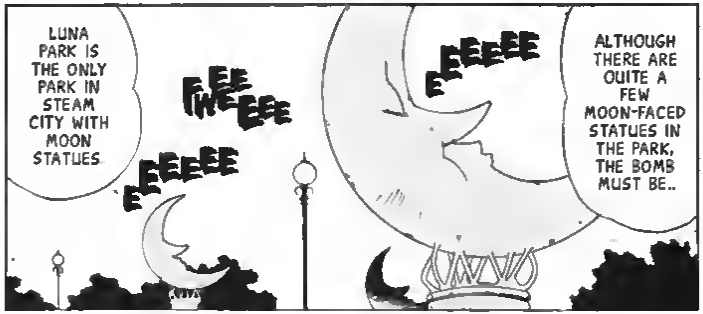

THERE AREN'T ANY CASES AT THE DETECTIVE AGENCY. SO SHE'S PROBABLY JUST READING A BOOK OR SOMETHING
NOW'S THE TIME TO ASK HER ON A DATE!!
SSHAAHH


KREECH
LUNA PARK! THE SECOND BOMB IS HERE!
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
IS ANY-ONE ELSE HERE?
VIP

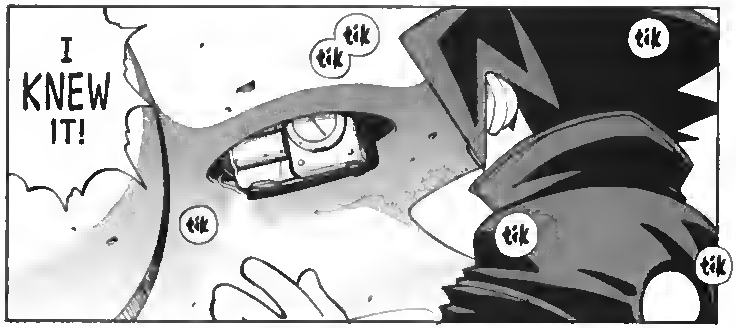

EEE EEE EEE EEE EEE EEE

GOOD. NO ONE'S HERE.
PHEW
IF THE WORST HAPPENED, I WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE TO GET HURT.

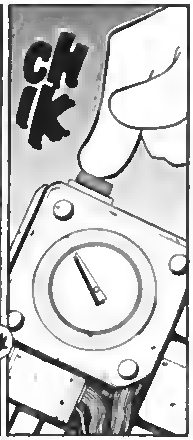

THE NUMBERS IN THE CODE FOLLOW THE ALPHABET IN ORDER
SO IF 1 IS A, THEN 15 WOULD BE O; 14 IS N; 9 IS I; AND 8 WOULD BE H...
THERE-FORE, "M15014 L9G8T/ P1R1I/ KNOWS" BE-COMES..
..."MOON-LIGHT PARK KNOWS."

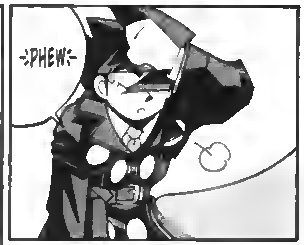

LUNA PARK IS THE ONLY PARK IN STEAM CITY WITH MOON STATUES
EEE EEE EEE EEE EEE EEE
ALTHOUGH THERE ARE QUITE A FEW MOON-FACED STATUES IN THE PARK, THE BOMB MUST BE..

..LOCATED IN THE LARGEST STATUE IN THE CENTER OF THE PARK!
THE ONLY ONE PAINTED BRIGHT GOLD!
EEE EEE EEE EEE EEE EEE


I KNEW IT!
tik
tik
tik
tik
tik

SO IT'S IN THE NOSE. A PUN ON "KNOWS."
tik
tik
tik

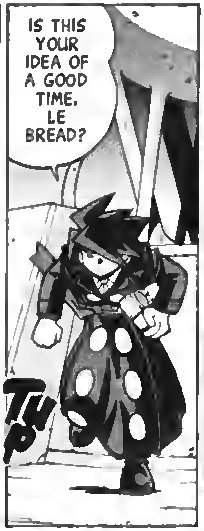

CH IK
tik

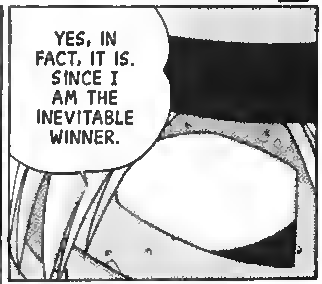

-PHEW-

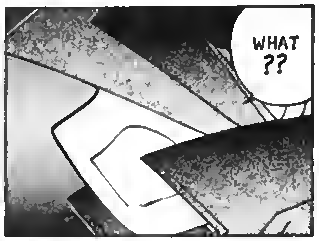
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
!!

THAT'S TWO DOWN. THREE TO GO.
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
LE BREAD !!

THE SECOND CODE WAS A SIMPLE ONE. MY GIFT TO YOU.
YES, A GIFT.


IS THIS YOUR IDEA OF A GOOD TIME, LE BREAD?
TYP


YES, IN FACT, IT IS. SINCE I AM THE INEVITABLE WINNER.


WHAT ??

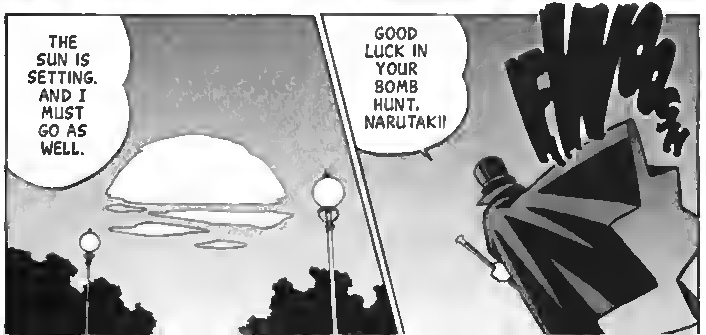
YOU ARE SIMPLY FOLLOWING MY SCRIPT. A MERE PUPPET
.....

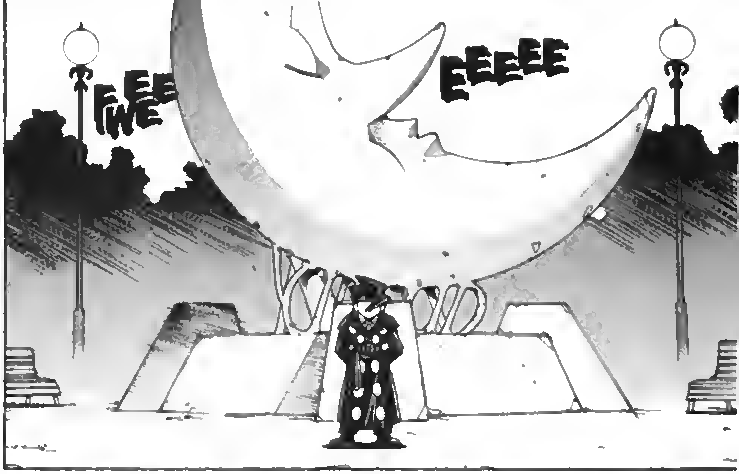
YOU CANNOT WIN!
YOU'RE WRONG. I WILL WIN.

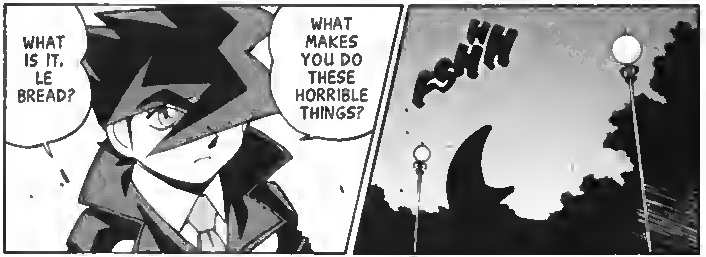
THIS CONTEST SHOULD BE BETWEEN THE TWO OF US. BUT WHAT YOU'RE PUTTING AT STAKE...
.. ARE THE LIVES OF INNOCENT PEOPLE!

I CAN'T ALLOW THESE PEOPLE TO BE HURT! SO YOU SEE. I CAN'T LOSE!!
.....
I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE!!

HA HA HA HAA. NOW I SEE HOW YOU BECAME SO NOBLE!
BUT THAT VERY NOBILITY IS YOUR WEAKNESS. RIGHT, NARUTAK!?


THE SUN IS SETTING. AND I MUST GO AS WELL.
GOOD LUCK IN YOUR BOMB HUNT, NARUTAK!!
FWOOSH


EEE EEEEE


WHAT IS IT, LE BREAD?
WHAT MAKES YOU DO THESE HORRIBLE THINGS?
FSHH

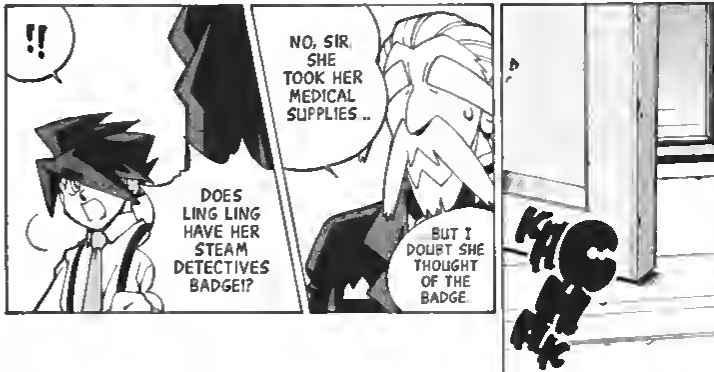
I'M HOME!
NARUTAKI
S-SIR, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT !?!
TRRMBL
TRRMBL
YOUR WOUNDS FROM THE ACCI-DENT... ??
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ??
TH-THE ACCI-DENT...
KA-CHANK

WHAT!? LING LING THOUGHT I WAS IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT. AND SHE LEFT TO HELP!?
THAT'S ABSURD! I WASN'T IN ANY ACCIDENT. I HAVEN'T SEEN LING LING ALL NIGHT!
KRATTA
KRATTA

TH-THEN... THE POLICE WOMAN...
...WHO COULD SHE HAVE BEEN?

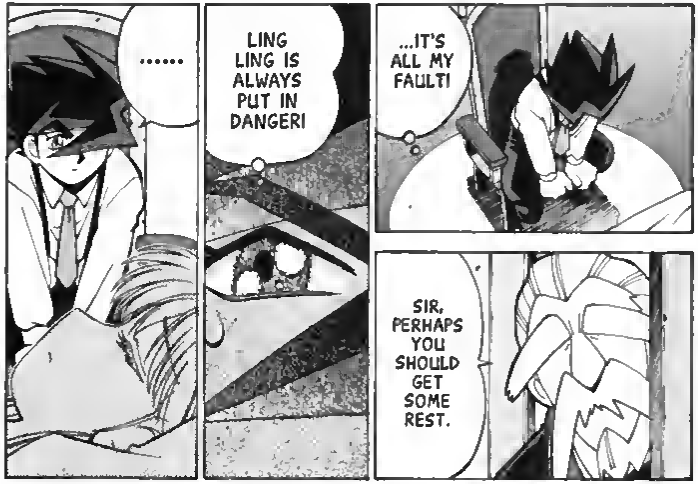
ANOTHER TRAP... SET UP BY LE BREAD ??

I HAVE TO GO FIND LING LING!!
TMP
BUT SIR, WHERE WOULD YOU START!?
DAMN!
THAT'S TRUE..
EVEN IF SHE WAS KIDNAPPED BY LE BREAD...
HE HEH
..WITH-OUT KNOWING LE BREAD'S LOCA-TION..


!!
DOES LING LING HAVE HER STEAM DETECTIVES BADGE!?
NO, SIR. SHE TOOK HER MEDICAL SUPPLIES..
BUT I DOUBT SHE THOUGHT OF THE BADGE.
KA-CHANK

NARU-
TAKI...
I-
I'M...
BACK.
LING
LING
!!
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOU!?
HOW'D
YOU GET
HURT!?

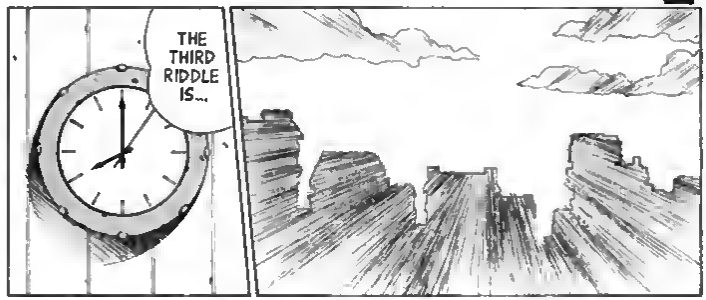
THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE IN AN ACCIDENT. BUT IT WAS ALL LE BREAD'S TRAP!
I BARELY MANAGED TO ESCAPE HIS CASTLE.. I JUST KEPT RUNNING AND RUNNING.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I GOT HERE...
AAHN...
WHOA!
LING LING!
KAWA-KUBO!! GET HER BED READY!!
Y-YES, SIR!!
HOLD ON, LING LING!!
.....

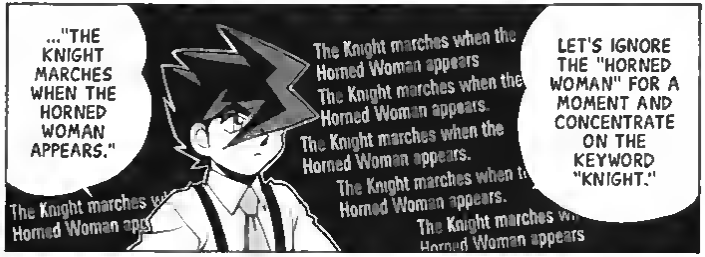

.....
LING LING IS ALWAYS PUT IN DANGER!
...IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
SIR, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST.

NO, I'LL BE ALL RIGHT HERE.
BUT, SIR...
DON'T WORRY, KAWAKUBO YOU'VE EARNED YOUR NIGHT'S SLEEP.
LEAVE ALL-NIGHTERS TO THE KIDS.

NO, SIR. I'LL STAY UP TOO.
KAWA-KUBO...
I CAN'T ARGUE WITH YOU.
NOW, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR BREAK-FAST?
BREAK-FAST, SIR?
I'LL HAVE MY USUAL TOAST AND AN EGG AND A CAFE AU LAIT.

LING LING... I'M SO SORRY ABOUT THIS.
I PROMISE I'LL PUT A STOP TO THIS.
I'LL PUT A STOP TO *YOU*, LE BREAD!


THE THIRD RIDDLE IS...


..."THE KNIGHT MARCHES WHEN THE HORNED WOMAN APPEARS."
The Knight marches when the Horned Woman appears
The Knight marches when the Horned Woman appears.
The Knight marches when the Horned Woman appears.
The Knight marches when the Horned Woman appears.
LET'S IGNORE THE "HORNED WOMAN" FOR A MOMENT AND CONCENTRATE ON THE KEYWORD "KNIGHT."

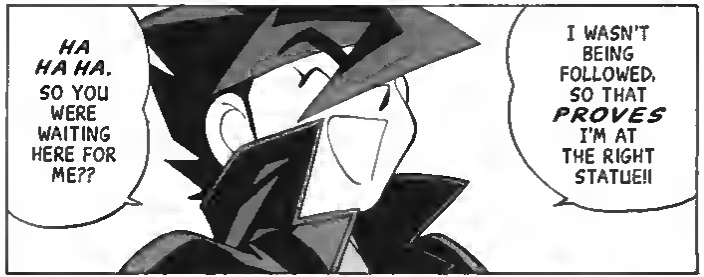
WHERE CAN I FIND A KNIGHT IN THIS CITY?
STEAM CITY MAP
SIR, YOUR BREAK-FAST IS SERVED.
KRAFTA
WHAT DO YOU THINK, KAWAKUBO? ARE THERE ANY KNIGHTS NOWADAYS?
KNIGHTS, SIR?
I SUPPOSE ONE MIGHT FIND A STATUE IN A MUSEUM...
OR PER-HAPS...

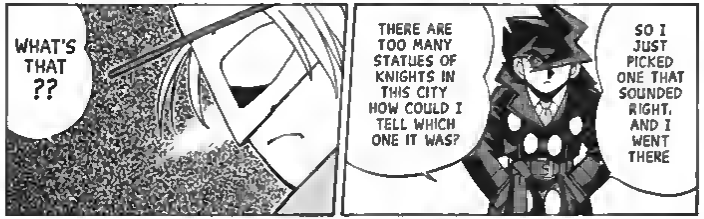
...THE STATUE IN THE PARK ON THE RIVER OF LIGHTS.
FSH FSH
SO THIS IS IT.
EEE EEEEEEE

EEE EEEE
EEE

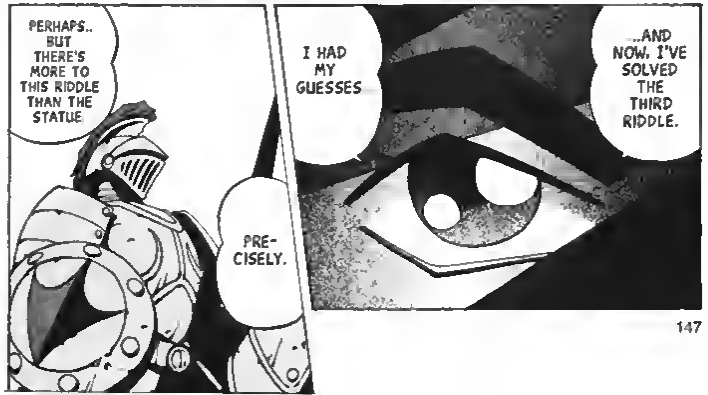
THE BOMB WOULDN'T BE IN THIS STATUE. THAT WOULD BE TOO OBVIOUS
OF COURSE IT ISN'T OBVIOUS.

OTHER-WISE, WHAT GOOD ARE THE CODES ??
LE BREAD!!

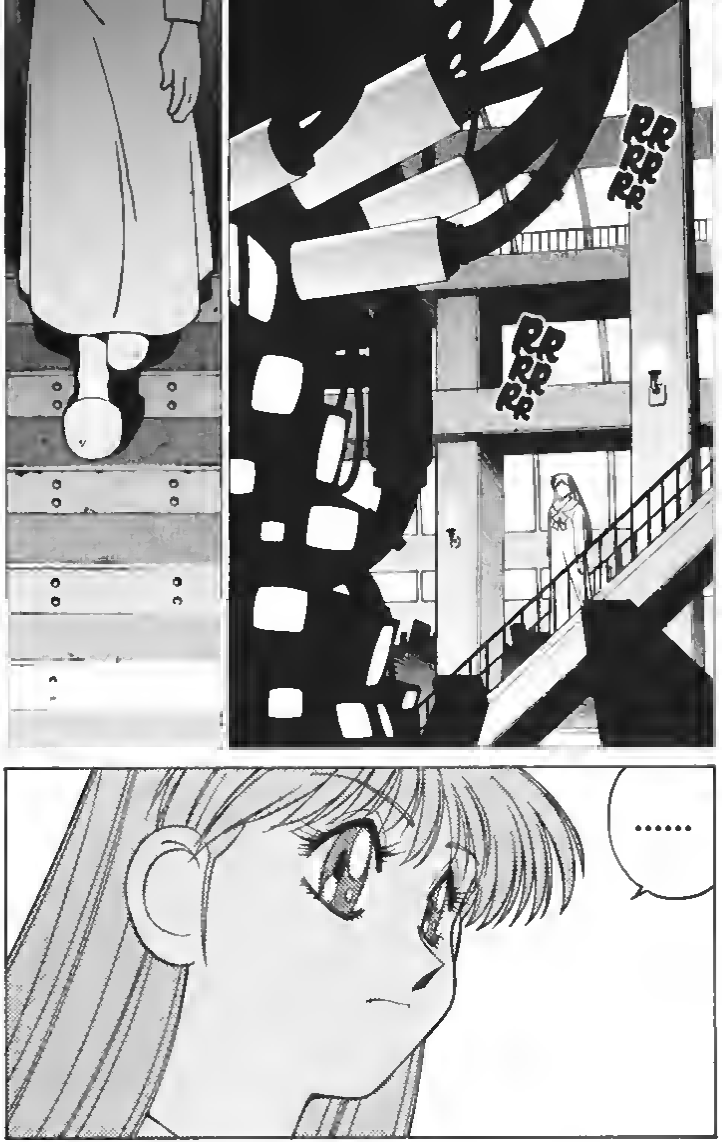

HA HA HA. SO YOU WERE WAITING HERE FOR ME??
I WASN'T BEING FOLLOWED, SO THAT PROVES I'M AT THE RIGHT STATUE!!


WHAT'S THAT ??
THERE ARE TOO MANY STATUES OF KNIGHTS IN THIS CITY HOW COULD I TELL WHICH ONE IT WAS?
SO I JUST PICKED ONE THAT SOUNDED RIGHT, AND I WENT THERE

I FIGURED THAT IF YOU WERE THERE, IT WAS THE RIGHT ONE. AFTER ALL, YOU ASSUMED I'D SHOW UP AT THE RIGHT STATUE
I APPRECIATE YOUR ESTEEM FOR MY INTELLIGENCE, BUT THIS TIME, IT WORKED AGAINST YOU!


PERHAPS.. BUT THERE'S MORE TO THIS RIDDLE THAN THE STATUE
PRE-CISELY.
I HAD MY GUESSES
...AND NOW, I'VE SOLVED THE THIRD RIDDLE.

KN OK
KN OK
LING LING ??
.....
ARE YOU STILL SLEEP-ING ??
?
DID SHE STEP OUT?
MISS LING LING...
THIS IS MOST ODD.
I SHALL LEAVE YOUR TEA HERE THEN...


RRRRR
RRRRR
.....

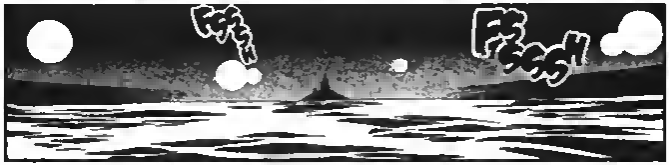
STEAM DETECTIVES PRESS

STEAM CITY'S SUBWAY CONSTRUCTION COMMENCES!

THE IMPERIAL SUBWAY WILL DO THE WALKING FOR CITY DWELLERS!!

After years of planning, the city subway system is now under construction. The city estimates the subway will be completed in five years. The subway's electrical power, the central problem in constructing the subway system, will be provided by plants owned by Steam Electric. In any case, this is good news for Steam City citizens who like to go out at night.

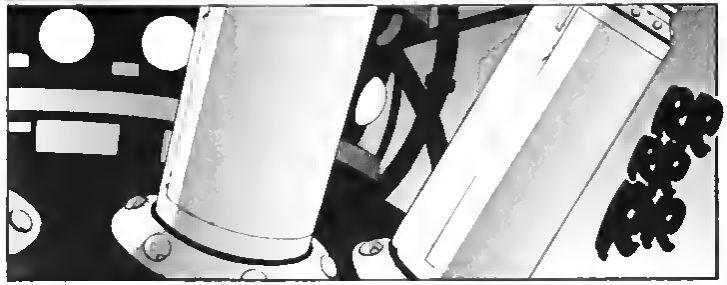
High-tech Submarine "Progress" Embarks on Round-the-World Voyage!

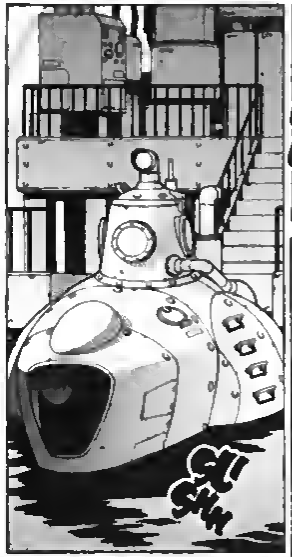


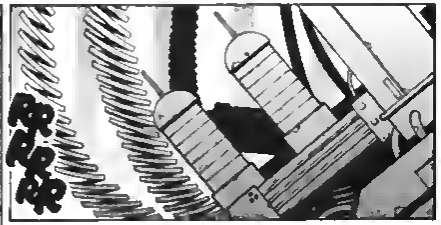
"PROGRESS" WILL BE THE FIRST SUBMARINE TO CIRCUMNAVIGATE THE GLOBE!!

The pride of the Imperial Navy, the ultra-modern submarine "Progress" under the command of Captain Mertzburg, has embarked at dawn of August 3rd on its voyage around the world. If Captain Mertzburg and his crew succeed in this voyage, it will be the first circumnavigation of the globe for a submarine. While citizens wish them success, at the same time, many worry that its crew will encounter the holy monster Simurgh. Captain Mertzburg could only say, "The sea is where a man's heart is." We wish him and his crew success.

Volume019 • Issued by Steam Press Co.,Ltd.



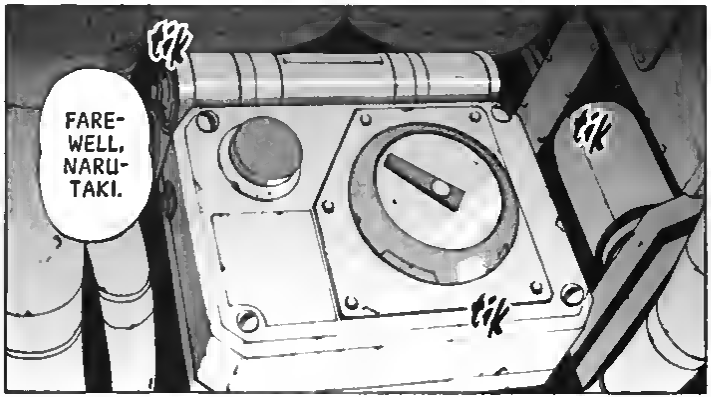


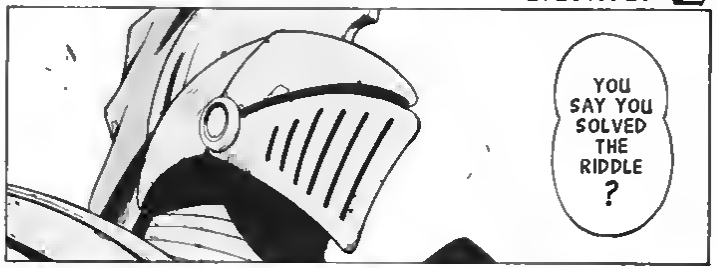


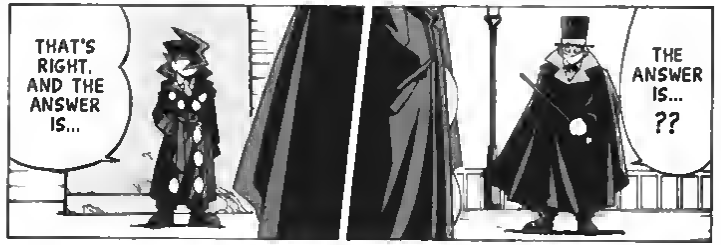
CASE 12, PART 3

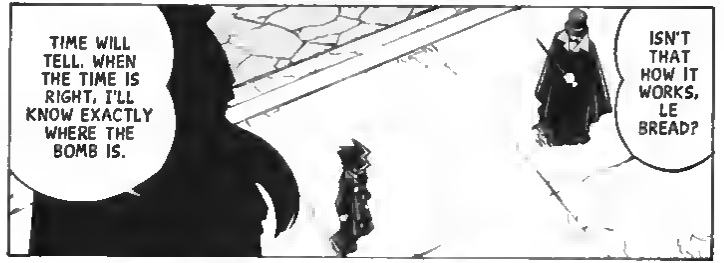
TURNABOUT! THE TRUTH WITHIN SMOKE AND MIRRORS

PRR PRRR
GUU
SHIT!
.....
AAAAH


FARE-WELL, NARU-TAKI.
tik
tik
tik


YOU SAY YOU SOLVED THE RIDDLE ?


THAT'S RIGHT. AND THE ANSWER IS...
THE ANSWER IS... ??


TIME WILL TELL. WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, I'LL KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THE BOMB IS.
ISN'T THAT HOW IT WORKS, LE BREAD?

I'M GOING OFF TO GO SOLVE THE FOURTH RIDDLE.
SEE YOU LATER.

I'LL SHARE A SECRET.
WHAT ??
NOT EVERY BOMB IS SCHEDULED TO GO OFF..
..AT MID-NIGHT OF THE FINAL DAY.
.....
I WONDER WHICH OF THE REMAINING THREE WILL GO OFF FIRST... ??
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO GUESS ??
THIS LITTLE DRAMA IS ONLY BEGIN-NING.
.....

YOU'RE ON, LE BREAD.
I'LL FIND EVERY LAST BOMB!!
I WON'T LET ANYONE ELSE GET HURT!!
EEE IWE
EEEEEE
EEEE

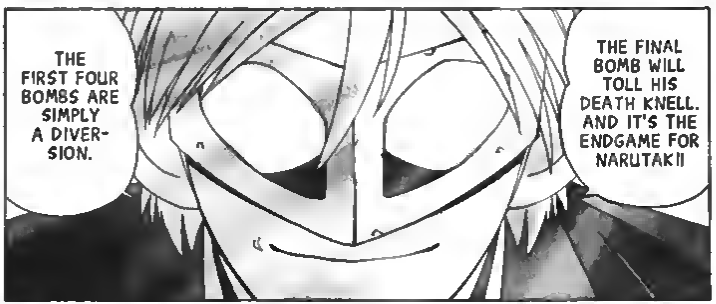
THREE DAYS LATER--
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER, LING LING?
YES. I'M SORRY TO HAVE WORRIED YOU.
MY WOUNDS ARE STILL HEALING, BUT I FEEL FINE.
THAT'S GOOD.
I WAS WORRIED THAT LE BREAD MIGHT HAVE HURT YOU.
NARU-TAK!!
HM?
HAVE YOU FOUND THE BOMBS? I'M SO WORRIED.
I FOUND TWO ALREADY.
THAT'S GOOD!
BUT THERE ARE THREE LEFT.
I ALREADY KNOW WHERE ONE IS.
PHEW
GOOD. AND THE FINAL TWO?

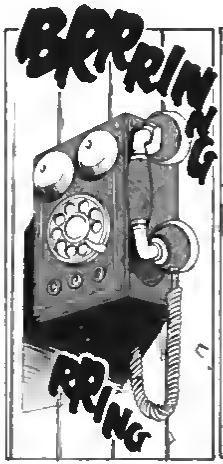
I HAVE TO SOLVE LE BREAD'S CODES ON THOSE
THE FOURTH RIDDLE IS "738222 9121 93A."
2. M15014L9G8T/P1R
3. The Knight marches with the Horned Woman appears.
738222912193A.
I'LL FIGURE OUT THE NUMBERS LATER. BUT WHAT'S THIS "A"?
!!
STARE
IS SOMETHING STUCK TO MY FACE, LING, LING?
FIDGET
OH NO. IT'S JUST THAT YOU LOOK SO ADORABLE WHEN YOU'RE THINKING.
HUH ??

WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO MISS LING LING?
NEED TO DO SOME SHOP-PING
YOU MUSTN'T! YOU'VE ONLY BARELY RECOVERED! PLEASE ALLOW ME TO DO THE SHOPPING.
NOW, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
W-W-WELL...
...SOME ALMOND GELATIN, PLEASE ??
SHAKA
SHAKA
KLIK
KLAK
LING LING, SHOULDN'T YOU STILL BE IN BED !?!
NARU-TAKI...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE DISHES, YOU GO REST.
O-O-OKAY...

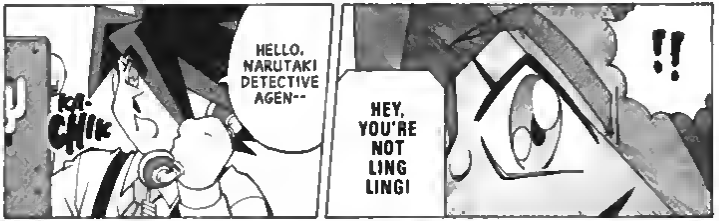
HMM...
IT'S SO WARM HERE...
ARE YOU IN PAIN?
YOU'LL ONLY HAVE TO BEAR IT A LITTLE WHILE LONGER

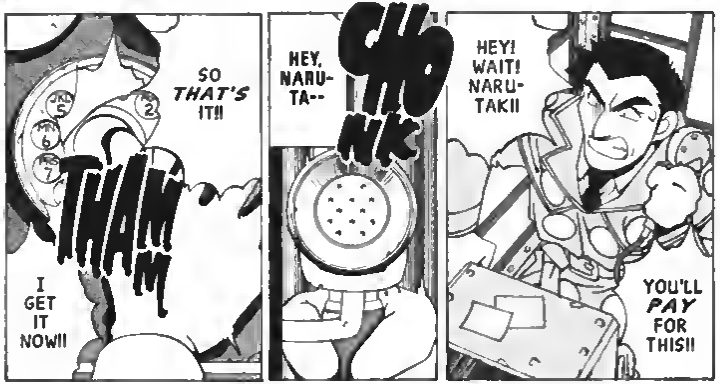
LING LING...
ONCE I PUT NARUTAKI TO DEATH... I'LL SET YOU FREE.

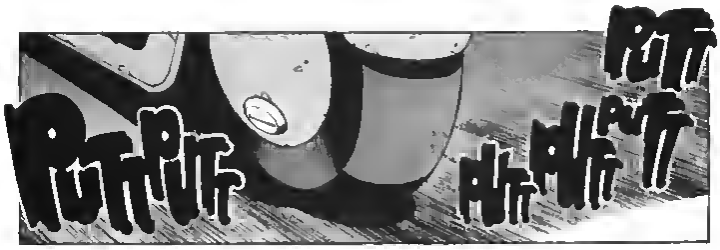

THE FIRST FOUR BOMBS ARE SIMPLY A DIVER-SION.
THE FINAL BOMB WILL TOLL HIS DEATH KNELL. AND IT'S THE ENDGAME FOR NARUTAKI!!

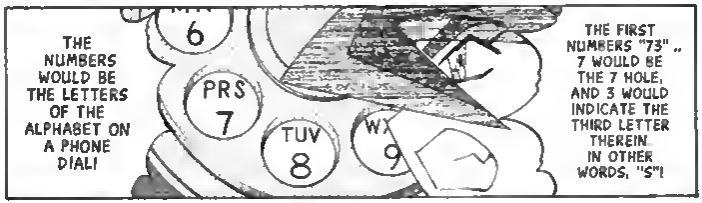

BRRRING
RRING

KAWA-KUBO! THE PHONE'S RING-ING!
BRRING
BRRING
BRRING
TMP TMP TMP
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! KAWA-KUBO'S OUT SHOPPING!


ka-CHIK
HELLO, NARUTAKI DETECTIVE AGEN--
HEY, YOU'RE NOT LING LING!
!!


THAM
SO THAT'S IT!!
I GET IT NOW!!
HEY, NARU-TA--
CHO NK
HEY! WAIT! NARU-TAKI!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!!





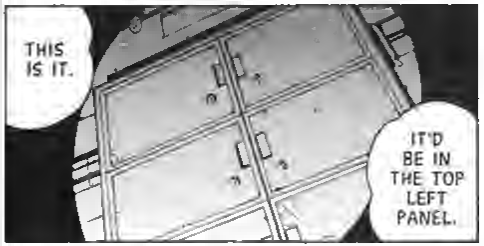
帝都地下鉄公団
SUBWAY
SUBWAY 10LINE CENTRAL STATIONS 帝都地下中央駅
AAAA

THE PANEL BOARD IS DOWN THERE WHERE THE TUNNEL FORKS.
YOU SHOULD STAY HERE ON THE PLATFORM. I'LL GO.

BE CAREFUL, NARUTAKI!
THE TRAINS AREN'T RUNNING ANYMORE TONIGHT.
NO HURT PASSENGERS. NO SYSTEM-WIDE PANIC.

HERE'S YOUR 7-TOOL DETECTIVE SET AND YOUR FLASHLIGHT.
THANK YOU, LING LING!
ALWAYS THE BRILLIANT ASSISTANT.
OH, NO...
HA HA.
.....

KATINK KATINK KATINK


THIS IS IT.
IT'D BE IN THE TOP LEFT PANEL.

THE TIME IS PROBABLY SET FOR SOMETIME SOON. IT COULD GO OFF AT ANY MOMENT.
CHAK
WHAT THE--!?!
THIS ISN'T THE DETECTIVE SET!!

IT'S THE PORTABLE PICNIC SET!!
OHHH NO!
WHAT'LL I DO !?!
HOOOOOO OOONN
HUH ??

LE BREAD SHOULD BE OUT...
NOW'S MY CHANCE TO ESCAPE...
FLIK
KRNCH KRNCH KRNCH
BE CAREFUL, NARUTAKI...
DON'T PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER UNTIL I CAN GET TO YOU!
KRNCH
KRNCH

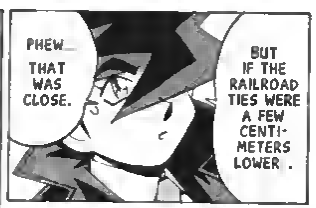
GRRR
RRR
A TRAIN? AT THIS HOUR !?!
I NEED A PLACE TO HIDE...
MY FLASH-LIGHT'S OUT!?
GRR
!!
RAWW

KACHANKA
KACHANKA
KACHANKA
KACHANKA
RRWAANN
RRWAANN

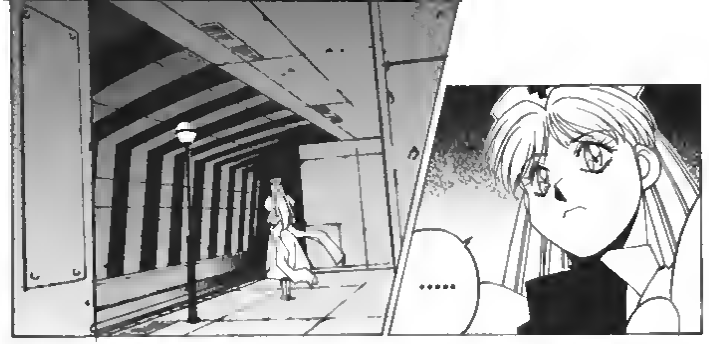
KACHANKA
KACHANKA

KACHANKA
KACHANKA

SSHT


PHEW... THAT WAS CLOSE.
BUT IF THE RAILROAD TIES WERE A FEW CENTI-METERS LOWER.

NOW THEN, LET'S GET BACK TO THE BOMB.
I WONDER HOW THAT HAP-PENED, THOUGH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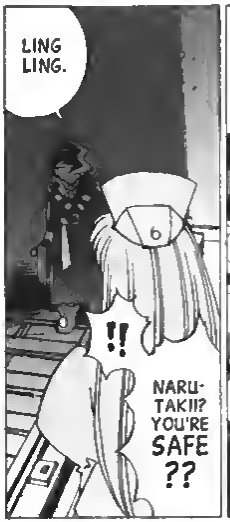
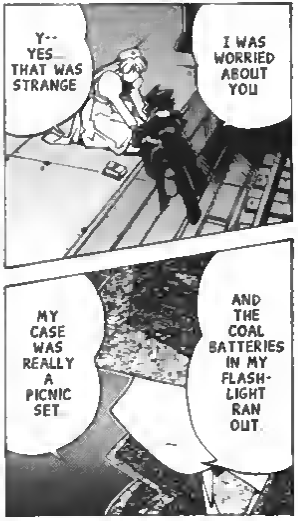
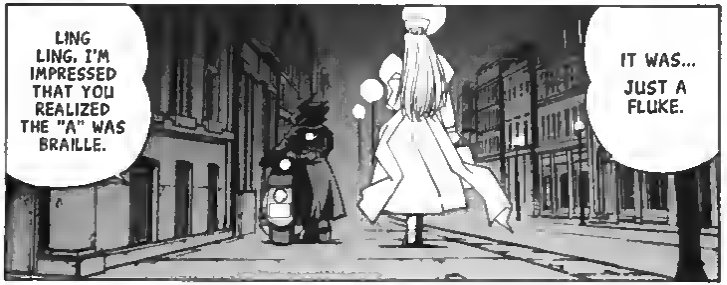

LING LING.
!!
NARU-TAKI!? YOU'RE SAFE ??

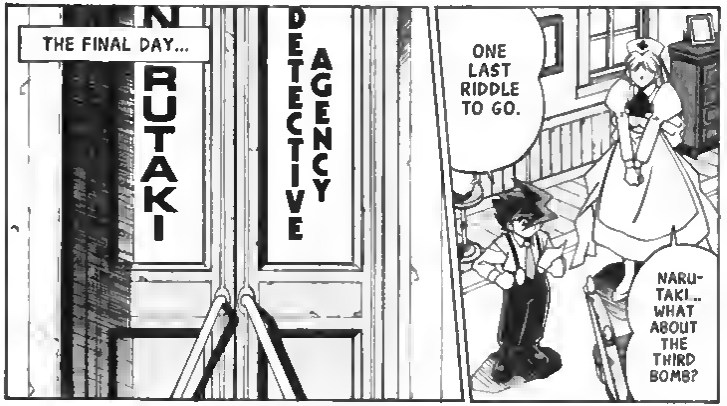
IS THE BOMB... !?!
FOUND AND DE-FUSED. I WONDER WHERE THAT TRAIN CAME FROM, THOUGH.

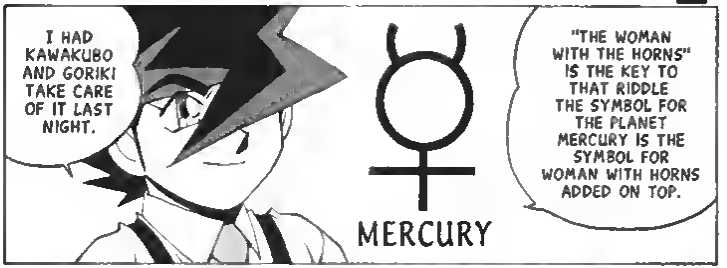

Y-- YES... THAT WAS STRANGE
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU
MY CASE WAS REALLY A PICNIC SET.
AND THE COAL BATTERIES IN MY FLASH-LIGHT RAN OUT.

I-I'M SORRY... I SHOULD HAVE CHECKED.
NO, IT'S OKAY. I USED THE ALCOHOL LAMP IN THE PICNIC SET, AND I OPENED THE PANEL USING A FORK AND KNIFE.

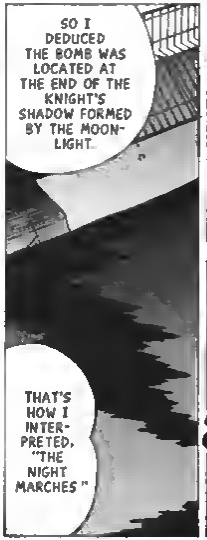
THE STATION MASTERS MAY NOT LIKE HOW I SCRAPED UP THEIR PANELS.
I'LL HAVE DETECTIVE ONIGAWARA GIVE THEM A CALL
NARU-TAKI...
I...
LET'S GO BACK TO THE OFFICE! WE HAVE ONE MORE RIDDLE TO SOLVE
EXIT 21
O-OKAY...


LING LING, I'M IMPRESSED THAT YOU REALIZED THE "A" WAS BRAILLE.
IT WAS... JUST A FLUKE.

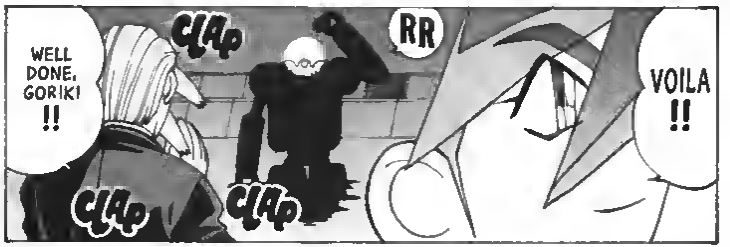

THE FINAL DAY...
NARUTAKI DETECTIVE AGENCY
ONE LAST RIDDLE TO GO.
NARU-TAKI... WHAT ABOUT THE THIRD BOMB?

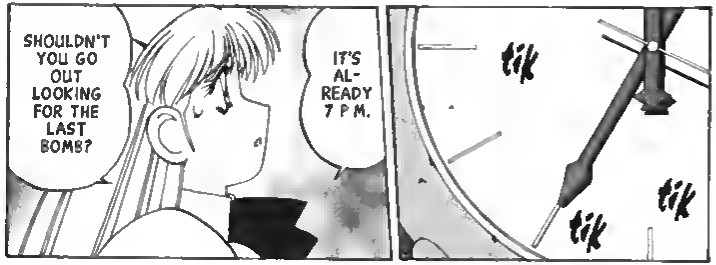

I HAD KAWAKUBO AND GORIKI TAKE CARE OF IT LAST NIGHT.
MERCURY
"THE WOMAN WITH THE HORNS" IS THE KEY TO THAT RIDDLE THE SYMBOL FOR THE PLANET MERCURY IS THE SYMBOL FOR WOMAN WITH HORNS ADDED ON TOP.

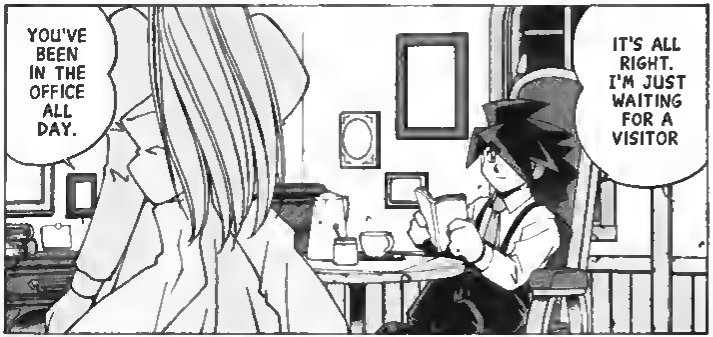
THE ONLY TIME YOU CAN SEE MERCURY IS RIGHT AFTER SUNDOWN THAT'S ALSO WHEN THE MOON APPEARS
THERE'S ONLY ONE TIME OF DAY WHEN "THE WOMAN WITH THE HORNS" APPEARS


SO I DEDUCED THE BOMB WAS LOCATED AT THE END OF THE KNIGHT'S SHADOW FORMED BY THE MOON-LIGHT.
THAT'S HOW I INTER-PRETED, "THE NIGHT MARCHES."

FLASH
KER-
RR
FLASH

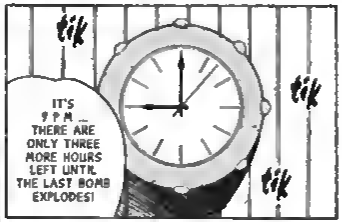

WELL DONE, GORIKI !!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
RR
VOILA !!

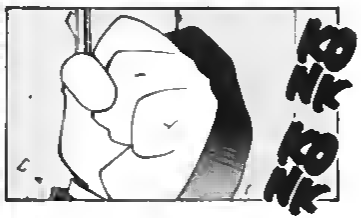

SHOULDN'T YOU GO OUT LOOKING FOR THE LAST BOMB?
IT'S ALREADY 7 P.M.
tik
tik
tik

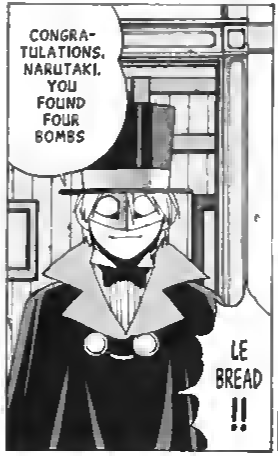

YOU'VE BEEN IN THE OFFICE ALL DAY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M JUST WAITING FOR A VISITOR

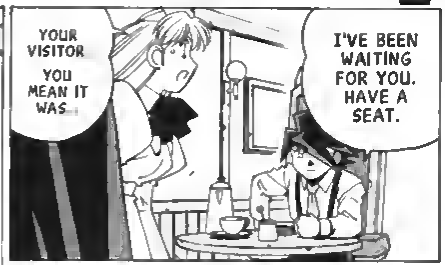
A VISITOR ??

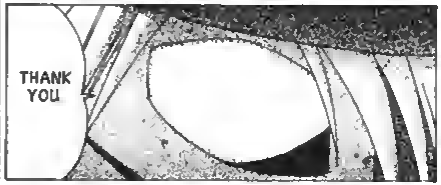
HE'LL PROVIDE THE CLUE TO FIND THE FINAL BOMB.

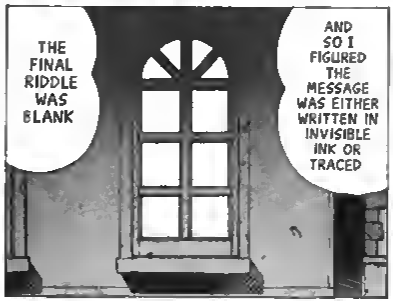

tik
tik
tik
IT'S 9 P.M. — THERE ARE ONLY THREE MORE HOURS LEFT UNTIL THE LAST BOMB EXPLODES!

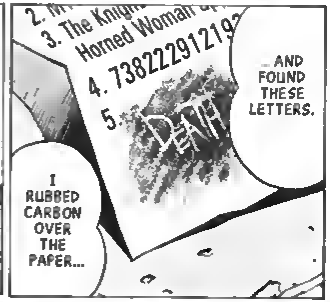

KONK
KONK


CONGRATULATIONS, NARUTAKI. YOU FOUND FOUR BOMBS
LE BREAD !!

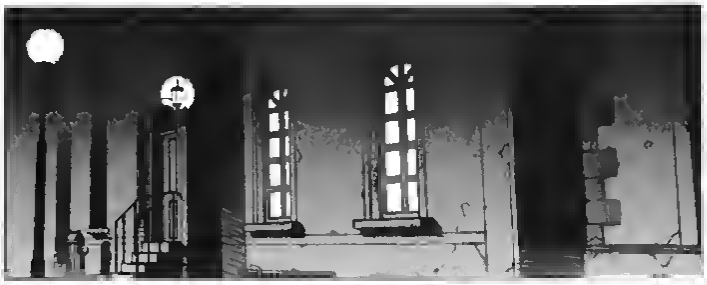

YOUR VISITOR
YOU MEAN IT WAS...
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. HAVE A SEAT.


THANK YOU


THE FINAL RIDDLE WAS BLANK
AND SO I FIGURED THE MESSAGE WAS EITHER WRITTEN IN INVISIBLE INK OR TRACED


3. The Knight Horned Woman
4. 738222912
5. DEATH
I RUBBED CARBON OVER THE PAPER...
...AND FOUND THESE LETTERS.

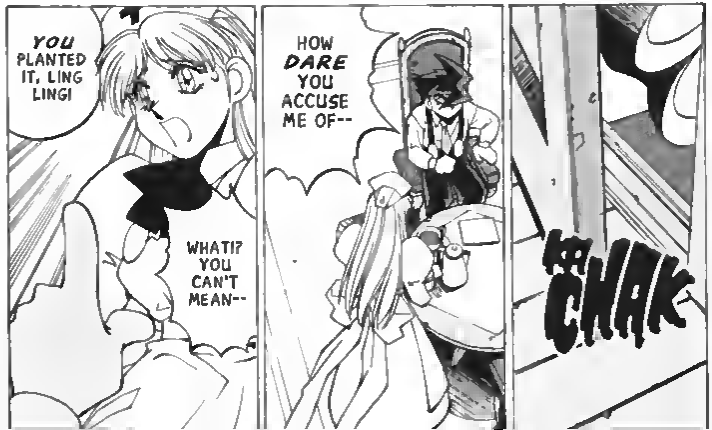
"DEATH."
NOT MUCH OF A CLUE
WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW, NARUTAKI?
.....



ONLY 30 MINUTES LEFT..
.....
WHAT'S WRONG, LING LING? YOU SEEM JUMPY.
WOULDN'T YOU BE ??
HAVE YOU FOUND THE LAST BOMB?
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, SEEM SURPRISINGLY CALM
I THINK SO.
YOU ACTUALLY PROVIDED ME WITH A BIG CLUE..
..IN THE FACT THAT YOU'RE HERE
THE LAST RIDDLE WAS DEATH.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WANTED TO WITNESS MY DEATH.
!!
WHICH MEANS, THE FINAL BOMB IS PLANTED...

...SOMEWHERE HERE IN MY OFFICE.
THEN HOW WAS THE BOMB PLANTED HERE? WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE?

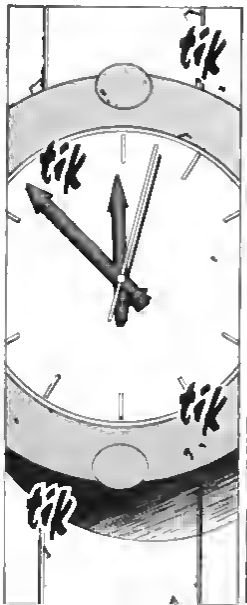

YOU PLANTED IT, LING LING!
WHAT!? YOU CAN'T MEAN--
HOW DARE YOU ACCUSE ME OF--
CHAK

YOUR MAS-QUERADE IS OVER !!
DAAN
WHA-- !?!
SHE'S THE REAL LING LING...
RIGHT, LANG LANG?
GASP !!
SHINK

WHEN DID YOU FIGURE ME OUT ??
SHI CH
WHEN LE BREAD MET ME IN LUNA PARK, HE TOLD ME THAT THE SECRET TREASURES WERE BOMBS
LING LING WASN'T THERE. SHE WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN.
INSTEAD YOU ASKED ME...
"HAVE YOU FOUND THE BOMBS? I'M SO WORRIED."
WHICH WAS ODD.
I NEVER MENTIONED ANY BOMBS!
THAT WAS WHEN I KNEW!!
URK...
HOW DID LING LING ESCAPE FROM MY CASTLE ??
MY S.D. BADGE!! THE EDGE CAN BE USED AS A FILE. IT ALSO HAS A RADIO TRANSMISSION DEVICE.
I CUT THROUGH THE ROPE, BUT I WAS STILL TRAPPED IN MY ROOM... SO I SENT A SIGNAL FOR GORIKI TO COME GET ME!
RR

I SEE. I SHOULD HAVE HAD YOU SEARCHED.
BUT ENOUGH CLEVER DEDUCTIONS! YOU HAVE ONLY 15 MINUTES TO FIND THE BOMB'S EXACT LOCATION.

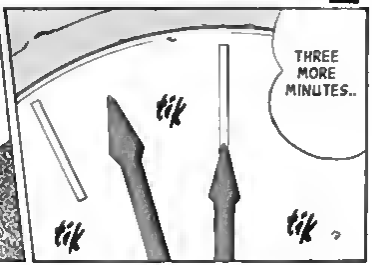
I SUPPOSE WE CAN WAIT IT OUT...
...AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
HMM...
Sylvie


tik
tik
tik
tik

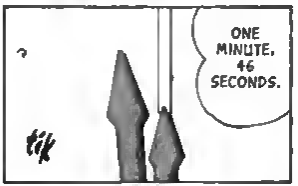
ONLY SEVEN MORE MINUTES.
YES, SEVEN MINUTES LEFT.
tik

tik
Glance
?

.....
FOUR MORE MINUTES..

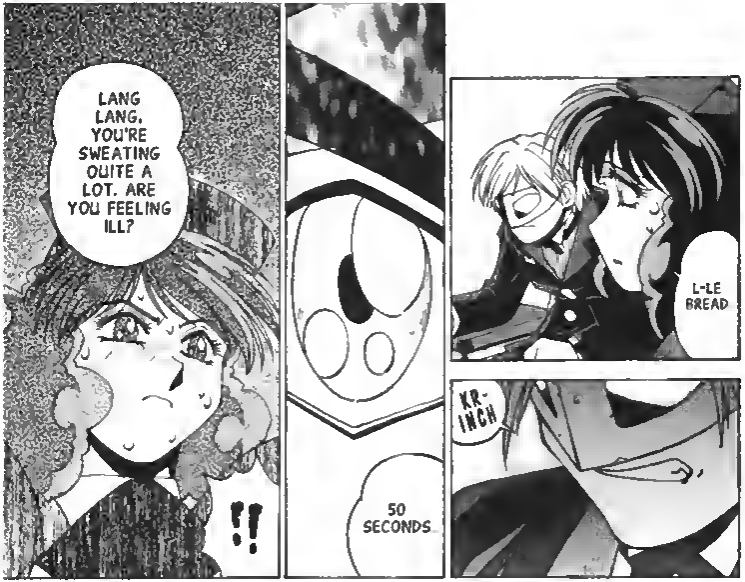

THREE MORE MINUTES..
tik
tik
tik

HM ??
NARU-TAKI! WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME...


ONE MINUTE, 46 SECONDS.
tik

ONE MINUTE, 30 SECONDS.

tik
ONE MINUTE, 20 SECONDS..
tik
tik
tik
ONE MINUTE EVEN.
tik


LANG LANG, YOU'RE SWEATING QUITE A LOT. ARE YOU FEELING ILL?
!!
50 SECONDS
L-LE BREAD
KR-INCH

NOW I KNOW WHERE THE BOMB IS.
LANG LANG HAS IT, RIGHT?

M-M-ME... ??
I... I...

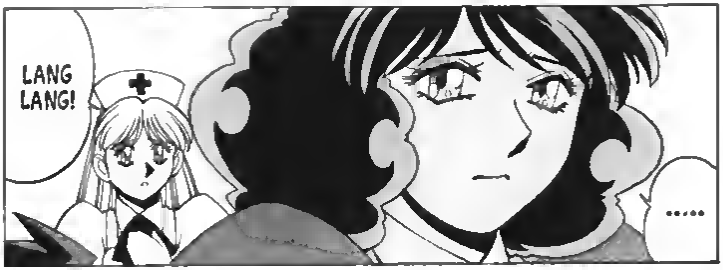
YOU FOOL!! DID YOU BETRAY ME !?!
WHAM
LE BREAD, I DIDN'T-- !!
!!
GWAAA
ACH

KA-TOOK

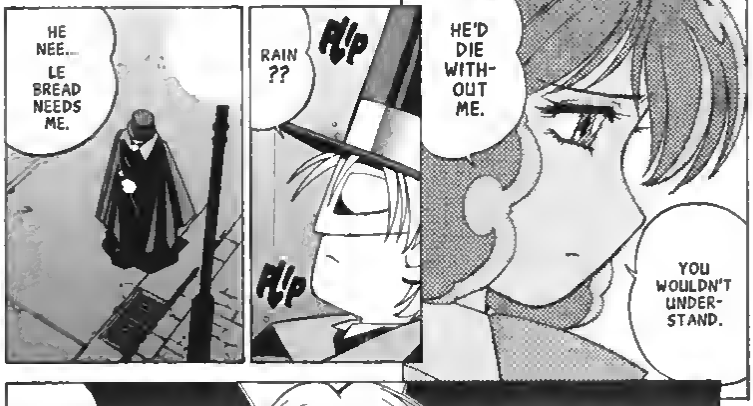
NEVER BRING TEARS TO A WOMAN'S EYES!
IT'S OUR JOB TO PROTECT THEM!!

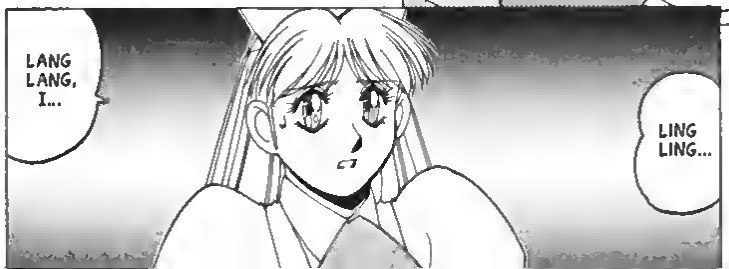
HMPH.
KRAK!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ??
A-- AH...
.....
KA-CHIK
HOW DARE YOU USE A WOMAN TO DELIVER A BOMB !?!
NARU-TAKI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ??
AHAAN HAAN
WHY, LANG LANG? WHY DIDN'T YOU FOLLOW MY INSTRUC-TIONS?
BOM

YOU WERE ORDERED TO SET THE BOMB IN THE OFFICE OR THE BASEMENT!
I DID... BUT THEN...
I CHANGED MY MIND
HAVE YOU NO SHAME!? THIS IS UNBEAR-ABLE !!
THWK!
FOR-GIVE ME, LE BREAD.
NARUTAKI. I CONCEDE DEFEAT THIS TIME. BUT YOU HAVE LANG LANG TO THANK FOR IT!
I'LL SEE MYSELF OUT! LET'S GO, LANG LANG!!
SH CLINK
.....
SIGHHH


LANG LANG!
.....

HOW CAN YOU EVEN THINK OF FOLLOWING HIM?
YOU STILL CARE ABOUT ME? HOW SWEET.
HA HA.


HE NEE... LE BREAD NEEDS ME.
RAIN ??
FLIP
FLIP
HE'D DIE WITH-OUT ME.
YOU WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND.


LANG LANG, I...
LING LING...

THIS PLACE OF YOURS IS SO WARM.
FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, I ENVY YOU.

CHUNK
.....

SHHH!

STEAM DETECTIVES PRESS

NARUTAKI DETECTIVE AGENCY'S TEA TIME!

Of course, the entire town knowe that the Narutaki Detective Agency is the best detective agency in Steem City. But little do people suspect that they serve the best coffee in the city! Mr. Kawakubo leaked the info.

DETECTIVE ONIGAWARA CAUGHT BY SURPRISE

Ultra-high-quality coffee beans are ordered directly from a coffee grower from a certain region of the Black Cloud continent. The water is taken from the underground springs in the Northern Milky Highlands. Detective Onigawara of the Steam City Police reports, "I drank his coffee once by mistake. Boy, was I shocked! It was so thick, I had to spit it out! It's not a drink for kids, and Narutaki won't live long drinking that stuff at his age.

He, he, ha! Oh, but Ling Ling is really a sweetheart though. She drinks tea all nice and girlish like.

LING LING LOVES TEA

Ling Ling's reputation as a tea lover is known far and wide! Only a few days ago, she solved the Stolen Tea Caper. According to Mr. Kawakubo, Ling Ling collects tea from all over the world. If you're set on capturing her heart, you might want to send her a gift of some rare tea blends!

Volume020 • Issued by Steam Press Co.,Ltd.

Kia Asamiya

Details are sketchy with regard to this elusive author, but since his debut work on *Vagrants* in 1986, he has produced some very popular manga and anime including *Silent Möbius, Möbius Klein, Compiler, Assembler, Gunhed, Dark Angel, Martian Successor Nadesico, Corrector Yui* and others. In the past several years, no less than seven of his manga series have been translated into English making him one of the most widely published manga artists in America.

A re-lea-se!
...RIGHT ?
YEAH...
I MEAN...
...WHAT IS THAT... ?
FWUUUU
.....
& Kick The Kitty
!
FW UU
Random Scans